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Our Slovenian Christmas

by JOE GLINSEK

Lacking the penitential preamble of Lent, Christmas was definitely more festive than Easter. Advent was a happier time than Lent. Still, the Eve of Christmas was a day of fast and abstinence, and like Good Friday, it called for one of our two annual *shtok* fish suppers. These smelly dried-cod meals will surely earn us an early release from Purgatory.

Another custom we observed on Christmas Eve was the blessing of every room in the house with incense and Holy Water, followed by a family recitation of the rosary.

My wife and I are retired and living in Florida now, and have continued this tradition. While I was living with my parents and family, this ceremony was repeated on New Year's Eve as well, but we now limit the custom to saying the rosary together. My uncle Mike bought his last tin of church incense back in the sixties, and 40 years later, we're still using the same container and his blackened silver spoon. Doling out a tiny spoonful once a year, it should last until we're gone.

When I was a child, the family walked through the house in a procession usually headed by Grandpa, the eldest. After several years of bringing up the rear of our little procession of five, he gave me the honor of my first "sprinkler" assignment, which made me feel like a real grownup. Using a long twig cut from the Christmas tree, I dipped it into our special bottle of Holy Water and stopping at each doorway, sprinkled it into every room of the house. Behind me, another member of the family blessed the rooms with incense. Hot coals were tumbled and rattled in an old pan, wafting the aromatic smoke into the room. It smelled like church because it was the "real stuff" – uncle Mike bought it downtown at

a liturgical supply store.

Even setting the charcoal ablaze was symbolic; dry, blessed palm fronds were used to kindle the fire. These had been saved from a previous Palm Sunday, when the newly blessed green palms were gracefully shaped and tucked into our crucifix. This somber black cross hung over the buffet in our dining room, and was large enough for a monastery. There was also a custom connected with the Holy Water in a special bottle that looked suspiciously like a whiskey pint. Any water that remained in the bottle on Holy Saturday when it was to be refilled in church, was set aside in another bottle. The family grave at St. Paul's churchyard cemetery was blessed with this remaining water on Memorial Day in May, when it was customary for people to visit and pray at their family graves. Holy Water was not discarded in the sink – it was returned to the soil.

When the blessing of the house was completed, it was time to say the rosary. In the living room, everyone had their elbows dug into the old plush sofa or chairs, and

were facing the wall as we knelt on the mock oriental rug. The living room was dark except for the lights on the tree and their reflections on the colorfully wrapped gifts underneath. These would be exchanged and opened after the prayers.

Many things distracted my senses and competed for my attention as we were settling down to say the rosary. Thinking of gaily wrapped gifts just behind me under the tree; studying the patterns of lace doilies adorning the arms and backs of the sofa; the scent of the pine and incense mingled with the unmistakable odor of coal heat from a roaring furnace fire. But my musing was abruptly interrupted by Mom's strong, serious voice reciting the Creed and announcing the Joyful Mysteries.

The rosary had begun, and three men and a boy responded with the last half of each prayer. And just as we did before every meal, the souls of the faithful departed were remembered with an extra decade at the end. The Slovenian prayers rolled off my tongue as naturally as English then, but sad to ad-

Significance of 12-days of Christmas

Editor,

I didn't like the carol the "Twelve Days of Christmas" until I read the article from John Downing of the Toronto Sun (by the way, his wife is Slovenian from Prekmurje).

I quote the following paragraph: "The Twelve Days of Christmas, whether the carol or the calendar, has several pagan roots, such as Scandinavian (Yule is Norse for a 12-day celebration) and Roman (Saturnalia festivities were followed by 12 holy days.) As for the carol it dates from the 1500s when Catholics were not permitted to practice their faith in England; it is a song for young Catholics to help with their catechism.

The two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments, the French hens are Faith, Hope and Charity, the calling birds are the four Gospels, the golden rings are the first five books of the Old Testament, and so on right up to 12 drummers being the 12 points in the Apostles' Creed."

I guess the Partridge in a Pear Tree is One God. I don't know the rest of them, but there must be a way to find out.

--Bogo Avsec
Mississauga, Ont.,
Canada

P.S. – Mississauga is almost a suburb of Toronto. That means the snow storm you send us via Buffalo hits us nicely.



mit, they'd be an embarrassing stammer today.

Each of us were using a rosary that had been twined in the hands of a deceased family member or relative when they lay in their caskets. There was a large handful of rosaries kept in the buffet drawer, many with relics of saints inside the crucifix. I've kept a plain black one that was held by my dad, and later by my mother. Also, the modest "gold-plated" metal crucifix that was in my father's coffin, now hangs in our home with the yellowing fronds from Palm Sunday. The large black crucifix from my childhood home was donated to the Ursuline nuns after my mother died. Several rosaries of unknown origin have been saved in a leather box. The customs live on.

Except for uncle Mike, our family was going to early morning Mass and we were all in bed by 11 o'clock when Mike walked to the corner to be sure of a seat at midnight Mass. "Smelled like they were coming home from a party," or "It's those 'once-a-year' people," were just a sample. Mike enjoyed the crowd and ceremony, which with sermon and singing, lasted about two hours.

If you were one of the early seated faithful, you would spend three hours in a

steam-heated church wearing winter clothes. Stepping out into the bracing air of a brisk winter night at two in the morning was a pleasant relief, and you could then 'sleep in' if you wished. Mike joined the lingering throng refreshed by the frosty chill outside the church, and exchanged warm holiday greetings and conversations with friends and neighbors before walking home.

He slept while Mom, Dad, Grandpa and I were at early Mass. Several pine trees surrounded the altar, and there were statues of the Nativity scene in a crude stable. During most of the early years, only icicles decorated the trees – lights were considered a fire hazard. When we decorated our tree at home, the wires were carefully twisted to avoid having the hot bulbs touch any part of the tree. Christmas Eve was the only time the Christmas tree lights were left on overnight.

(Continued on page 4)

Christmas Vacation

As is our custom, there will be no Ameriška Domovina (American Home) newspaper printed the week between Christmas and New Year's.

The Family

by RUDY FLIS

Family. For me that was my dad, mom, five brothers and four sisters. Yesterday, we buried my oldest brother, Harry, leaving the four youngest to pray for those of our family who died.

But in the past, our family had many good times together. At this time of year, Christmas Season, the memories seem more vivid. Like today. We gathered at my brother-in-law Al's house. He was married to my sister Mary, and Mary always had us over before Christmas for sharing the warmth of Christmas and precious memories from long ago.

Al's two beautiful daughters continue the tradition their mom, Mary, started. And as always, it was a special day for each of us, thanks to my nieces. Thank you Lord for such nice nieces.

To me bigger means more. The bigger the family the more brothers and sisters there are. To mingle among, joke with, and to laugh together while enjoying deli-

cious food was and still is a part of family life, even if it was a big family.

God blessed me with a special dad and a special mom, and all of my brothers and sisters were special to me, also. Family life could have gone on forever, and that would have been fine with me. But a truth in life is, "The more brothers and sisters you have, the more funerals you attend," such as I did yesterday.

A funeral has its emotions, and their effect on a person can vary. I have found that no matter what emotion I experience, it has not affected a beautiful memory I have of my dad, my mom, and my sisters Fran, Aggie, and Mary, and my brothers Harry, Matt and Mickey.

So, the family I grew up with in complete love and security is a strong influence on the family that grew up with me, also in love and security. Kind of like a circle, isn't it? Can it get better? It's up to my sons and daughters now, as their children grow up in love and the security, that is called "family."

by RAY MLAKAR

Well, Ray is back with a couple of jokes. Are you ready? Two caterpillars were crawling around a tomato stalk and saw a butterfly hovering above. One said to the other, "They'll never get me up in one of those things." (That's the joke.)

An uncle was in charge of a mosquito control program in a New Jersey county. When asked how the program was going, he said, "There was not a single mosquito in the county." We were amazed, but then he quickly added, "They are all married and have large families."

Well, let's get back to the Army and Basic Training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, a place called God's Country, but then everyone has a right to their own opinion.

We got off the train at dusk and if you have ever been at a training camp, you know street lights are unheard of. A sergeant yelled, "You guys stay right here; don't move, be right here when I get back. -- I am going to find out where youse guys are to be quartered for the night." Little did we know but we should have kissed him goodbye for we never saw him again.

It was getting cold and darker, pray tell where we can go. We could not see the hand in front of us and soon minutes felt like hours and hours seemed like days.

Where did that "yo-yo" sergeant go?

We were tired, for God only knows some of us got very little sleep on the train ride from Cleveland with the clickety-clack of the rails.

They had big ditches on the side of the road for apparently they never heard of culverts, but just open gullies. We laid on the slant of the gully trying to catch 20 winks in high hopes the sergeant would soon come back and take us to our barracks.

Soon the sun began to rise and a jeep came down the road and stopped. A captain got out of the jeep and asked, "What are you men doing here sleeping in a ditch?" We replied, "Waiting for the sergeant to come back and tell us where we would be staying. We have been here since about 10 last night."

The captain says, "You must be kidding. -- Do you know the name of the sergeant?" -- "No," answered one of the guys. "We were not formally introduced."

"Didn't he have a name tag on his uniform?"

Name tag, what the duce

was that? The captain was getting madder by the minute by our lack of knowledge as to the name of the Army sergeant who had left us there all night. He told us to form a rank of twos and follow his jeep on which he had a driver who was instructed to drive slowly.

Soon we came to a bunch of buildings and the captain yells, "Wait here; I'll be right back." One of the guys yells, "Oh, no; not again." But fortunately, the captain soon returned with some of the camp guards and sergeants who led us to our real home, the barracks we would be occupying for the next three to four months. The captain apologized for the way we were left in the ditch and said he would try to discover the name of the jack-behind sergeant responsible.

I had my suggestions as to what they could do with him, but thought it best to keep quiet, for who knows, he may end up being one of the sergeants we would have to be with during the entire training cycle.

The bunch of us from Cleveland were separated between two barracks, side by side, duplex, up and down. We got in there and the sergeant said, "Just make yourself comfortable; try to get some sleep" (sleeping on the floor), but I guess that was better than sleeping in a damp ditch.

Little did we realize that

Camp Breckenridge had been closed since the end of World War II and now they were about to open it in full bloom as a Basic Training Center.

When he left he said he would be back around 1800 hours which in American means 6 p.m., supper time. He said we would have a big GI Party. Odd dam, I thought they are now trying to make up for the misbehavior of the sergeant who had left us to sleep in the ditch and we

were about to have a big GI party. Great -- I wonder if there will be women. I bet they will really go all out to have the best meals and plenty to drink. Odd dam, party all day. I could hardly wait for 1800 hours.

Well, I don't want this column to go into book form yet, so you will have to wait for Mlakar's next column to get all the poop on the GI Party.

I'll bet Rudy Flis can hardly wait to read about the Party, but then if I know Rudy, he attended many a GI Party. So, till next time, May the Good Lord Bless and Watch over all of you and may the dear Lord truly Bless America.

In closing I might add that with my experience with trains with square wheels, do not travel by train and now that I think of it, going by air is not a smart idea, either, especially if some of the passengers are wearing turbans.

Christmas Customs Around the World

ENGLAND -- Candles are set in the windows to lead carolers there, and any wayfarer who seeks shelter is welcomed in the Christ Child's name.

FINLAND -- There is a church service at six o'clock on Christmas morning. There are Christmas prayers and a sermon and as the day grows brighter they burst into songs of joy that tell of their gladness over the coming of the Christ Child. After the service they go home to a breakfast of ham, fish and coffee bread.

NORWAY -- Peace and goodwill are stressed during the Yuletide in Norway. All courts are closed, quarrels must cease, doors remain unlocked and even rats and mice must not be harmed. On Christmas Day extra grain is provided for all animals and a sheaf of grain is tied on a pole for the birds.

SWEDEN -- The Yuletide is a great festival in Sweden. It is three weeks of feasting, visiting and sing-

ing. Flaming torches light up the landscape. The jingle of sleigh-bells fill the air along with shouts of "God Jul! God Jul!"

ITALY -- A full month before Christmas-time, every home is busy making shrines that depict the story of the birth of Christ. Fresh green grass, tiny toy sheep and little baby dolls are placed on trays and can be seen in shop windows, in the windows of houses and even in open doorways.

POLAND -- Dear to every man and woman in Poland are the carols on Christmas Eve. Young boys go from village to village, from house to house, carrying a golden star -- and singing happily.

GERMANY -- The center of festivities is the Christmas tree. Father and children go into the woods to select a fine tree to grace their home. They trim the tree with candles, stars, silver nuts and shining baubles, to create a Tannenbaum of matchless beauty.

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Escape from Communism

PART II

by ANTON ZAKELJ
edited by JOHN ZAKELJ

(Continued from last week)

Sunday, May 6, 1945

I couldn't sleep last night. I heard something outside, so I got up and went out onto the balcony to see what was happening. Stretching into the distance was the German army, in a long unbroken column, on foot and in vehicles. Four years ago, they arrived powerful and victorious. Now they are leaving so quietly, they seem like ghosts.

During the daytime, the moving column became denser. Civilians began to join the soldiers, and soon there were three lines on the road: civilian refugees on foot, civilians in vehicles, and the military. In all the tragedy there was even some comedy. For example, I saw a German officer in a beautiful, shining automobile which was being pulled by a horse.

Monday, May 7, 1945

I rode my bicycle to Skofja Loka (about 7 miles from Kranj) to say farewell to my parents and my sisters. The partisans (communists) forced them out of our home in Ziri about six months ago, and they have been living in a small room in a monastery since then. My mother encouraged me to leave before the partisans take control. My parents plan to stay in Slovenia, come what may. We said our farewells, not knowing when we would see each other again. (In fact, I would not see them again for more than 20 years.)

I returned to Kranj. Since there wasn't enough cash at the cooperative, I used all of my personal savings - 2,000 Reich Marks (about 10 months worth of salary) - to pay our workers. In ex-

change, I took an equivalent value of leather from the cooperative's warehouse. I couldn't find my boss - he disappeared somewhere. Later, I saw an acquaintance who agreed to buy that leather from me. I sold it to him in exchange for a promise that he would pay me back. (He never did.)

The procession of refugees heading north continues to grow. The cooperative has a number of finished shoes in stock, and I considered giving them away to the refugees. But I didn't see anybody who needed shoes.

Some of the local people support the partisans and don't understand the refugees. A farmer, from whom I had sometimes bought milk and eggs, asked me: "What do these people think they are doing? We are on the threshold of freedom and these people are fleeing to the unknown. Are they ex-

pecting milk and honey in Austria?"

"Let's ask this one," I said, and pointed to a person who was using two cows to pull a small wagon, on which were his wife and a number of small children. My friend asked the man with the wagon, "For God's sake, why are you fleeing?" The man replied, "Three years ago we fled when the partisans took over Dolenjsko, and we'll flee again to the end of the earth, if we have to."

My friend still didn't understand. (A year later, I wrote to my friend to ask him to give my sister some cloth that I had left with him. He wrote back: "I can't give her anything. I don't have anything left. The communists took my land and everything I had." Now he understood.)

(To Be Continued)

Christmas tree ornament

3

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA, DECEMBER 13, 2001

The Fox and Goose

The fox and Goose are the central characters in a well-known German fable, which is popular throughout the entire year.

While riding across town on a wooden cart, a young goose glimpses the alluring city life. Upon returning to her farm, she dreams of the excitement and glamour of the city, while her brothers and sisters receive lessons in swimming, marching, and laying eggs.

The silly goose tricks and exploits other barn animals in order to create a costume

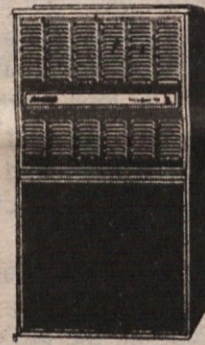
for herself consisting of a straw hat, veil, high heels, and fake eyelashes. After parading through the barnyard, she wanders into the woods where a fox flatters her, tricks her, and then prepares to kill her.

She manages to escape only with the help and cooperation of the barnyard animals.

The tale of the fox and goose warns us to resist the temptations of glamour and materialism, which can detract from the peace and joy of Christmas, and value our true friends and home.

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Our Slovenian Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

I never took to the idea of going to midnight Mass as a youngster, and still don't. It seems much more serene and sacred to wake in the winter dark of an early morning for the first Mass, and then hurry home by dawn's light for a hearty breakfast. Having fasted since midnight to receive Holy Communion, breakfast was on our mind as we hurried home. Mike could have slept as late as he wished, but the smell of coffee brewing and bacon frying was a fragrant "alarm" that brought him scurrying down to join us.

Edible treats were part of everyone's Christmas tradition. Despite lean years in the 1930s, we always ate well, especially at Christmas. Mom laid our table with a dinner featuring a big fat roasted capon with many side dishes, and topped off with Slovenian desserts of *potica* and *flancate*. Later there were brown figs strung on an oval of heavy twine, roasted chestnuts, sticky sweet dates, and mixed nuts to crack. From Morrow's Nut House next to the May Company downtown, there was a box of roasted cashews just for Mom - she was allergic to most other nuts. Remember that tantalizing smell?

After morning Mass and a big breakfast, I got down to the serious fun of really exploring my toys that had been opened the night before. You may be wondering about a child opening his gifts on Christmas Eve. Yes, of course I believed in Santa Claus, and maybe I thought he made early deliveries at our house, because it didn't dampen my joy to open gifts on the night before Christmas. I was always bewildered by the logistics of his delivery system. Reason won out and the myth evaporated at some point, but it was better to leave well enough alone. It was also nice to have a doting uncle and grandfather as extra "live-in" Santas. Though toys were never in the quantity and variety seen today, there was usually one "big" present and a few odds and ends.

One year there was an "Erector Set" - not the real thing, but just as nice. The brand name escapes me, but the panels were joined by simple hinge pins, and it had a small electric motor - a durable gift that was used

often and fostered imaginative play.

"Tinkertoy" came in a tall round can and was one of their larger sets. Quite clever, its assorted lengths of dowels were connected at various angles to drilled, red wooden disks. Whatever your crude construction, its motive power was supplied by string and pulleys turned with hand cranks.

Depending on the size and complexity of the set, "Lincoln Logs" provided parts to build a variety of log cabins. These "building" toys tweaked and teased your creative abilities to make something other than the examples pictured in the instructions. These toys and variations of them, are very popular and still sold today. Mine lasted many years and were used often, not just at Christmas.

I had coveted an electric train for several years, but Santa disappointed me until I was 12. By now, the thrill of watching a "Lionel" going around in circles had lost its fascination. The cheap "tinny" wind-up trains I was given earlier, had been more fun. How tight could I wind the spring? How fast could it go around a loop without derailing? Here were all the elements of what would today be called an "interactive toy."

I masked my disappointment, but the train was the "main event" in the gift department that year, and there was little else. There's a happy (for some) ending to this story, though I must admit it was not my finest moment. By the following Christmas, the war had made it impossible to buy a new electric train. I sold my Lionel in its original box to the lady across the street, and for considerably more than it had cost "Santa" the year before.

Everyone was happy; well, almost. My parents must have been appalled, but concealed it well. I was very pleased with the inflated price; the woman across the street thought I was wonderful; and her little boy loved the train. Instead of thoughtful (cheap) gifts I would have bought for the rest of the family, they found nicer gifts under our tree. What could be wrong with this "win-win" deal? Today, I know the answer to that question, and realize that my father was a very patient

man. Also, the Lionel was a future "collectible" gone forever - a fate I richly deserved.

I still believe that Christmas Eve is a good time for exchanging gifts. This isn't dogma, but it worked for our family, and old habits die hard. Christmas morning was busy enough with early Mass and a big breakfast, neither of which would be appreciated by a child anxious to open his gifts. As I slept on Christmas Eve, I dreamt of Santa's toys that I had already opened and enjoyed, and looked forward to a busy day playing with them under the tree.

Ah, yes, the Christmas tree. Although my father was our official decorator, it was my Uncle Mike who bought the tree every year. Through my childhood and into my 20s, he never once bought home a tree that could, even charitably, be called straight. You'd think that Dad would have become exasperated enough to bring home a tree before he did - a good one. But no, that was Mike's contribution, and we knew that he loved the spirit of the season and the attention that his selections set in motion, tilted as they were.

My Mom was always called "Mame" by her brother, Mike. He would arrive proudly displaying his latest disaster and announce: "Look, Mame, ain't this a good lookin' tree?!" Rolling slowly back into her head, only her eyes replied, but Mike never took offense.

Dad's first job of "decorating" was trying to make the bare tree look presentable by viewing it from every angle before doing anything drastic like pruning, which could make it worse. Most often, he could screw our tree-stand on the trunk, skewing the angle to give the appearance of an almost straight tree. Yes, you read that right. The tree-stand was a giant, round, threaded steel nut with holes in its sides and a heavily flanged base. The holes were for a spanner or a bar that would turn the nut. Judging by its size and weight, it could only fit some massive machinery like a locomotive or railroad car, and was probably "rescued" from the NYCRR by Grandpa back in the 1920s. Dad trimmed the trunk to clear the ceiling, and turned and forced the screw onto the wood. The heavy mass of steel easily supported the tree, and it would be many years before we bought a proper tree stand with a water reservoir.

Usually he could adjust it enough to be placed at the living room window, where

a Christmas tree is supposed to stand for all the world to see. But some years we had the tree in a corner of the living room, with only its best branch forward. The entire scenario became a funny family Christmas tradition. Thanks, Uncle Mike, wherever you are.

As far back as I can remember, Dad allowed me to help him decorate the tree that Mike brought home. At about age 10, I was given a simple useful chore like untangling the wire hooks for hanging the old-fashioned ornaments. These were partly Grandma and Grandpa's, who were married in 1902. (Grandpa had been a widower since 1932).

The rest were Mom and Dad's decorations, bought after their marriage in 1928. My favorites were a group of lifelike birds with long colored bristles for tails. Each one had a spring clip at its feet, and perched on a branch, they looked very convincing. We also had some realistic life-size lemons that were actually light bulbs. Large enough to look like a glowing ornament, they had to be spaced far apart because of their weight, and the wires had to be twisted and clipped to a branch to keep the hot bulbs from touching the tree. It was worth the effort - they had a beautiful effect.

(To Be Continued)



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Christmas Radio Show
Mario Kavcic will host an international music Christmas radio program on Christmas Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on WATJ 1560 in Chardon, Ohio.

New Sister Cities: Indianapolis & Piran

by PAUL BARBARICH

Sunday, September 2 was an historic day for the Slovenian American community in Indianapolis. After 15 months of planning, the cities of Indianapolis, Indiana and Piran, Slovenia became Sister Cities.

The suggestion of a Slovenian Sister City for Indianapolis came in May of 2000 when then Minister for Slovenes Abroad, Mrs. Mihaela Logar met with Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson during the occasion of the centennial for St. Aloysius Lodge #52 of the K.S.K.J., American Slovenian Catholic Union. Mrs. Logar commented on the benefits of sustained dialogue and interaction between communities, and felt with the enthusiasm of the Indianapolis Slovene community, a Sister City relationship would prove to be mutually beneficial.

On August 6, just a little over a year since Mrs. Logar's visit, the Indianapolis City Council approved a bipartisan measure proposed by Councilors Joanne Sanders and Council President, Beurt Ser Vaas, calling for an official Sister City Relationship to be established between Indianapolis, Indiana and Piran, Republika Slovenija.

Ms. Sanders is of Slovenian Croatian descent and hails from the "Region" area of Indiana in and around Gary. Much work was accomplished in a short amount of time on both sides of the Atlantic as Mrs. Logar's words found resonance with members of our Slovenian American community. Through contacts, discernment, and a trip to Slovenia, an enthusiastic partner city was found in Piran. The jewel community on the Adriatic coast, Piran is Slovenia's leading tourist city with remarkable architecture and a rich history. Piran serves as administrative center for Slovenia Istria, and for Indianapolis - will be a portal to contacts with all of Slovenia.

The Piran delegation consisted of Mayor Vojka Stular, Nada Zajc - Head of Piran's International Relations Department, Borut Valencic and Jana Tolja - Portoroz Arts & Convention Center, Stojan Petelin, Dean of the Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Miran Staric, Milica Maslo - Cultural Affairs Committee - Bojan Groselj Ph.D. Dean at GEA College of Entrepreneurship.

The Piran delegation stayed in Indianapolis five days over the course of the Labor Day weekend and between official appearances, had time to enjoy Indianapolis sites including the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Indianapolis Zoo, thanks to the efforts of the

Indianapolis Sister City committee.

The milestone moment for the weekend was the signing ceremony itself held at the Indianapolis SloveneFest. The SloveneFest was a first of its kind day-long picnic celebration held at the picnic grounds of the Slovenian National Home with more than 900 guests. SloveneFest was a collaborative effort among all of the Indianapolis area lodges and societies for the benefit of our Slovenian community.

The Mayors of Piran and Indianapolis met to sign the official documents sealing the bonds between Indianapolis and Piran promising "the developments of cultural and economic ties, mutual exchange of citizens (youth, teachers, medical, business, and other professionals), trade relations, tourism, educational, sports, philanthropic and religious projects, and finally, the strengthening of the links between the institutions and public organizations of both cities."

This Sister City agreement is only the third Sister City for American communities with Slovenian cities. Cleveland and Ljubljana are Sister Cities as are Bethlehem, PA and Murska Sobota.

Members of the Indianapolis Sister City committee will hopefully be traveling to Piran early in 2002. A reciprocal signing ceremony was slated for early October of this year, but due to the tragic events of September 11th, the official visit and signing ceremony has been delayed.



These hearty outdoors men are members of the world famous St. Vitus Catholic War Veterans Post 1655 in Cleveland, Ohio and are all smiles because they just completed assembling the crib scene which is not only sturdy enough for them to lean on, but will stay in residence in front of St. Vitus Church until January 14th at E. 61st and Lausche Avenue. You can view the handsome manger at any time, but hear Christmas carols coming from cleverly hidden speakers between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight. The gentlemen pictured are, from left to right, Joe Hocevar, Al Orehek, John Kirk, Bill Lipold, Tom Kirk, Joe Baskovic, and Post Commander, Bob Mills. Missing from the picture is Lou Stromsky. The crib set up took place on Friday, Nov. 23. The post has been doing this every year since 1952.

St. Vitus Sweat Shirts

If anyone is interested in purchasing St. Vitus Parish sweatshirts, contact Louise Strauss, at (216) 531-2966, to place orders.

Prices are: children's - \$15/\$18 each; adults: \$25, \$28, \$30 & \$33. Proceeds benefit St. Vitus Village.

The time draws near the birth of Christ: The moon is hid; the night is still; The Christmas bells from hill to hill answer each other in the mist. - Lord Tennyson.

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Left to right: United States Senator from Ohio George V. Voinovich, Mary Marsic, representing her husband, Duke, Ivanka and Lojze Slak of Slovenia.

(Photo by TONY GRDINA)

Polka Awards Show XIV

by CECILIA DOLGAN

A spectacular finale brought a climatic ending to Awards Show XIV of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame. The entire cast of 40 entertainers, presenters, and honorees joined together to perform "God Bless America," as a giant American flag unfurled on stage, with confetti descending on the scene. The audience of nearly 1000 heard the announcement of 12 annual awards in 10 categories as voted by the 1,600 members of the Polka Hall of Fame, at Euclid High School auditorium on Saturday, Nov. 24.

Fred Ziwich and Ron Sluga were multiple award winners. Ziwich was voted Musician of the year and his album "What a Little Polka Can Do," was selected Recording of the Year. He has held the Musician of the Year title two previous times.

Willowick's Ron Sluga was nominated in four categories, and walked away with two awards. He was on the ballot for Recording of the Year, Musician of the Year, and won Best Vocalist, and for the fifth time was named Sideman of the Year.

There were plenty of celebrities on hand to present the trophies. The Cultural/Heritage award was presented by Magdalena Tovornik, secretary of foreign affairs for Slovenia, and Support/Promotion award by Mayor Paul F. Oyaski of Euclid, Ohio, the city where the Polka Hall is based.

The Best Vocalist and Musician of the Year awards were presented by the Slovenian Man and Woman of the Year, Mike Polensek, president of Cleveland City Council, and Florence Unetich, past trustee of the

Polka Foundation.

David Lynch, television talk show host and former Mayor of Euclid, presented the Recording of the Year and Band of the Year awards. He also sang in the closing number of "God Bless America."

Duke Marsic of Eastlake was in attendance to accept the Lifetime Achievement honor, from his daughter Vera Marsic of Mentor. The saxophonist's 102-year-old mother was in the audience.

Another Lifetime Achievement honoree was Lojze Slak, premier button accordionist, composer, and band leader, from Slovenia, who was on hand in person to receive the Crystal trophy from chairman of the Polka Hall, Tony Petkovsek.

David Spero of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame accepted the Trustees Honor Roll award in behalf of his late father, Herman, who produced the "Polka Varieties" television show for 20 years.

Joe Luzar of Willowick accepted the plaque for Trustees Honor Roll for himself and his brother, Louie, who was unable to attend.

Other Trustees Honor Roll awards went to Margot Glinski and Mike Longo of the Slovenian Country House restaurant, Noyes Lane, an Arizona polka promoter, and Eddie Andres, Cleveland accordionist.

The Awards Show was hosted by Master of Ceremonies Ray Somich of WELW-1330 AM radio of Willoughby. Fred Ziwich directed and arranged the music played by the nine-piece Hall of Fame All-Star Band.

The two composers of the 2001 Greatest All-Time Hit Songs were on stage to play the polkas. George Staidunar

played his "Mozarts Polka," accompanied by the All-Star Band. Lojze Slak played his tune "Ej, Prijatelj," with the vocal trio of Cleveland's "Fantje Na Vasi" - John Srsen, Tom Srsen, and Bart Slak, with backup by Ron Sluga on guitar, and Denny Bucar on bass.

A tribute to Slovenia, on the occasion of the country's 10th anniversary of independence, brought into the forefront leading Cleveland-style vocalists: Cecilia Dolgan, Christine Hibbs, Dave Skrajner, Eddie Kenik, Paul Yanchar, Florence Unetich, Angie Zabjek, and Ken Umeck.

The show was under the direction of Stage Horizons' Bob Stegmiller of Mentor on the Lake.

The Polka Hall of Fame plans to move its museum and operations to the former Euclid City Hall in the near future. Remodeling is scheduled to begin this week.

2001 Annual Polka Award winners are:

Cultural/Heritage: SNPJ Junior Chorus

Support/Promotion: Val Pawlowski

Button Box - individual: Al Battistelli

Button Box Group: Magic Buttons

Sidemens of the Year: Ralph Delligatti of Mentor, Ron Sluga, Dave Wolnik

Best New Band: Wayne Tomsic and the Somich Brothers

Best Vocalist: Ron Sluga

Musician of the Year: Fred Ziwich

Band of the Year: Jeff Pecon

Recording of the Year: "What a Little Polka Can Do" by Fred Ziwich and the International Sound Machine

For information contact: Polka Hall of Fame (216) 261-3263 or Kim Rodick E-mail: Kimmysko@aol.com

Visit the website: www.polkafame.com

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Duke Marsic, Lifetime Achievement Winner (Photo by TONY GRDINA)

Coming Events

Friday, Dec. 14

Dance West Park Slovenian Hall, 4583 W. 130 St., Cleveland, 7:30 - 11:30 p.m., featuring JTO Joey Tomsick & Christmas dinner.

Friday, Dec. 14

KSKJ Lodge #63 matching funds dinner at Slovenian National Home on East 80th St., at 6 p.m. Goulash dinner and music. Call (216) 341-6136 for reservations. Cost is \$10 per person.

Friday, Dec. 14

Slovenian National Home (Newburgh), 3563 E. 80th Street, sponsoring Slovenian Smorgasboard. Serving 5:30 - 7 p.m. Music by Wayne Tomsic from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Donation \$10. Reservations a must. Call (216) 341-6136, (216) 662-3339 or (440) 243-4062 for reservations or more information.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Ohio Boy Choir concert of traditional Christmas songs, 5:15 p.m. in St. Vitus Church. Free admission; donations welcome.

Feb. 1, 2, 3

Slovenian Ski Weekend at Windham, NY. Call John F. Kamin 718-424-2711.

Sunday, Feb. 3

St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School annual family-style dinner, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults \$11; children \$5. Take-outs available.

February 17-24

Slovenian Ski Trip to Steamboat, CO. Only \$1195. For information call Ivan Kamin (718) 424-2711.

Sunday, Feb. 24

St. Vitus Slovenian Language School annual benefit dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish auditorium.

Sunday, March 10

St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School breakfast 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon featuring homemade sausage and crepe. Adults \$6.00, children \$3.00.

SATURDAY, March 16

43rd Annual Slovenian Man and Woman of the Year Awards Banquet at Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland. Serving 4 p.m. Program, 6 p.m. Donation \$20. John Telich and Jean Krizman are Main Honorees.

Sunday, April 7

Super Button Box Bash 20 - Slovenian Junior Chorus at Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Ave., Euclid.

Friday, April 12

St. Mary's (Holmes Ave.) Slovenian School Reverse raffle at Slovenian Home, Holmes Avenue to benefit the "Discover Slovenia - 2002" tour.

Sunday, July 28

Slovenian School of St. Vitus parish summer picnic at Slovenska Pristava.

Importance of Expanding NATO

by GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
United States Senator
from Ohio

A decade ago, the world watched the Iron Curtain fall and the Soviet Union collapse. Now, in this post-Cold War era, those Eastern European nations that once suffered under Soviet rule now have an opportunity to build democracies, develop their economies and establish civil societies rooted in freedom and justice. A tool for helping these countries reach these goals is NATO.

Established during the Cold War to protect free nations in Europe from the tyranny of Soviet rule, NATO has long been seen as the enemy by the countries of Eastern Europe. That's not the case any longer.

With Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic already members, old mindsets and allegiances are shifting as nations seek partnerships with other nations rooted in the newly-embraced principles of freedom and liberty. Also, the former Warsaw Pact nations are seeking stability in the face of the world's new uncertainties, namely terrorism.

The terrorist attacks of September 11th are evidence of these new challenges and make it clear that now, more than ever, it is critical that we continue our efforts to assist all nations striving for freedom.

At a speech in Berlin on October 1, NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson dispelled myths that the attacks of September 11th had sidelined NATO's agenda, and reaffirmed the importance of NATO's planned expansion in November 2002.

Stressing the importance of the 19-nation Alliance's agenda, he said, "The events of September 11 have not invalidated NATO's pre-September 11th agenda. If anything, they have reinforced the logic of that agenda. They have reinforced the logic of keeping peace in the Balkans - because building stable multi-ethnic states is our best insurance against terrorism emerging in the first place."

As a member of Congress who has long been involved with Euro-Atlantic issues, I understand the importance of NATO expansion to strengthen security and stability in this region. I strongly believe that supporting NATO expansion demonstrates our country's commitment to freedom and democracy in

the global arena. The terrorist attacks on September 11th were an attempt to shatter this commitment, and in the aftermath of this tragic event, we have only deepened our dedication to freedom and democracy. As the world engages in a campaign against terrorism and aims to bolster global security, it is important that those countries that suffered far too long under the Soviet Union have the opportunity to join a community of nations pledged to democracy, stability and growth that is the heritage of Europe.

In 1997, NATO invited three of Europe's new democracies, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, to become members of the Alliance. Since then, we have witnessed how these nations have contributed to stability in Europe, and the significant political contributions they have made to the Alliance by enhancing NATO's understanding of central, eastern and southeastern Europe. I was a strong supporter of this first round of enlargement, and I believe these successes are evidence that NATO enlargement has only enhanced security and stability in Europe, and I believe welcoming Europe's emerging democracies into NATO only strengthens the region, as well as the economic ties between Europe and North America.

Members of NATO are scheduled to meet at a summit in Prague in November 2002 to consider further expansion of the Alliance. Though the meeting is nearly one year from now, it is critical that we continue to highlight the efforts necessary for candidate nations to make in preparation for potential NATO membership.

Currently, nine nations are being considered for membership next year, including: Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. General guidelines for NATO expansion were laid out in NATO's 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement. These nine countries are currently working to develop free market economies, strengthen their democracies and commitment to human rights, peacefully resolve internal ethnic disputes and territorial disputes with neighbors, establish civilian-controlled militaries, and demonstrate the ability to contribute to NATO's

defense as well as NATO's new missions.

In June 2001, I had the opportunity to visit three candidate nations, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, while attending a meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. During this trip to the Baltic States, three of my colleagues and I toured defense facilities. We met with defense leaders and were able to see first hand the tremendous progress being made in preparation for NATO membership. We heard the appeals of the political leaders and witnessed the outpouring of support for NATO membership from citizens in Lithuania who rallied outside our meeting site. I was very impressed with the progress that I saw during my visit, and I continue to believe any nation that can demonstrate its ability to handle the responsibility of NATO membership should have the opportunity to join the Alliance.

I stand behind the strong support for NATO enlargement advocated by President Bush. As he commented in Warsaw last June, "The United States will be prepared to make concrete, historic decisions with its allies to advance NATO enlargement... As we plan the Prague Summit, we should not calculate how little we can get away with, but how much we can do to advance the cause of freedom."

As we approach the Prague Summit, we should continue to encourage candidate nations to further their work in areas important to the Alliance. This is a critical time for NATO, and we should strive to highlight the important contributions the Alliance continues to make to protecting the freedom and security of Europe.

Though a product of the cold War, it is clear that NATO's purpose has evolved, and membership in the Alliance presents the greatest opportunity to ensure the security and stability of Europe's emerging democracies. The terrorist attacks on September 11th were targeted at undermining the security and stability of the free world, and in the aftermath of these tragic events, it is even more important that the free world continue its efforts to strengthen democracies throughout the world. We can best begin this effort by strengthening our democracies in Europe with the support that comes from NATO membership.

Ohio Boy Choir Christmas Concert at St. Vitus Church

The Ohio Boy Choir will be performing a concert of traditional Christmas songs on Saturday, December 15th at 5:15 p.m. in St. Vitus Church. The concert is sponsored by the St. Vitus Christmas Choir. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Ohio Boy Choir is a community choir founded in 1974 by Alexander Musichuk. It is comprised of boys ages 8 to 14. Formed around a passion for quality voices, combining musicianship and community pride, the Choir has developed into one of Ohio's prized cultural assets. Ohio Boy Choir has performed for Ohio's Governors and Presidents Reagan, Carter, Bush and Clinton.

This past year they have performed with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra at Sev-


erance Hall; the Cleveland Chamber Symphony at Wajten Auditorium; and toured Scotland and England with six performances.

They performed well at the White House on December 4th for members of Congress and their families and White House staff.

The Ohio Boy Choir recently sang at a Mass at St. Vitus Church on September 2nd celebrating the renaming of Glass Avenue to Lausche Avenue. One of the selections they sang at the Mass was "Panis Angelicus" by Cesar Franck. Included in the Ohio Boy Choir are two parishioners of St. Vitus Church.

Following the performance, the St. Vitus Christmas Choir will be providing refreshments in the church basement.

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Slovenian
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The Slovenian National Home (Newburgh), 3563 E. 80th Street, is sponsoring a Slovenian Smorgasbord on Friday, Dec. 14. Serving is from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Music provided by Wayne Tomsic from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

For reservations (a must), call (216) 341-6136, (216) 662-3339. or (440) 243-4062.

-Anna Mae Mannion

Donation

Thanks to St. Vitus Altar Society who sent in a Christmas card along with a donation of \$100.00. They wrote, "May the quiet beauty of Christmas fill your heart with peace and love. Happy Holidays and thank you for all your help."

SWU #25

Christmas Dinner

Slovenian Women's Union Branch No. 25 Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at Sterle's Restaurant on Sunday, Dec. 16th at 1:30 p.m.

Please bring canned foods and non-perishable items for St. Vitus Food Bank.

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Death Notices

HARRISON SKUFCA

Harrison Skufca, age 85, passed away Nov. 28, 2001 in Dallas, TX.

Husband of the late Mary (nee Badiu); father of Skip (Sharon), Paula (Andy) Maar of Dallas and Russ; grandfather of Christine, Jill, Michael, Andrea, Brian, Lauren, Melissa and Nicole; great grandfather of Caitlin, Morgan and Rachael; brother of Rudy Flis, Theresa Mommers, Albert, and Tony Flis, and the late Frances Zak, Matthew Skufca, Mickey Flis, Agnes Theus and Mary Paulin.

Mr. Skufca was owner of Harrison Industries. He was a World War II Veteran, Army Air Corps; and Past President of the West Suburban Optimist Club.

Funeral was Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church (York Rd.)

Family received friends at Craciun Funeral Home in Middleburg Hts., Friday, Dec. 7. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery.

STEVEN J. VATOVEC

Steven J. Vatovec, 48, of Brunswick, Ohio passed away on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2001.

Husband of Michelle (nee Bradley); son of John and Evelyn (nee Soltis) Vatovec; brother of Cynthia (Daniel) Crowley; also survived by aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was on Monday, Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. in St. Ambrose Catholic Parish, Brunswick. Interment at Resurrection Cemetery in Valley City.

JOSEPH ZUPANCIC

Services for Joseph Zupancic, 90, of the Collinwood area, were held at St. Mary's Church (Holmes Ave.) on Tuesday, Dec. 4th. Joseph died at his home on Friday, Nov. 30.

Joseph was born in Veliki Gaber Stranje, Slovenia.

Mr. Zupancic was employed as a shearpunch operator at Mutual Metal Products for 12 years.

He was the husband of

Josephine (nee Okorn) for 61 years; the brother of Sr. Cecilia (Evanka), and Anica (both deceased); uncle of Jerry Grabnar, John Grabnar, and Justine Vogrin. He leaves a step-brother and sister and many relatives in Slovenia.

Entombment was in All Souls Cemetery.

Zelev Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

JOHN F. DOLSAK

John F. Dolsak, 91, passed away in Euclid Hospital on December 1st.

John was born in Cleveland and was a Euclid resident for 48 years.

Mr. Dolsak was a member of AMLA #27 Blejsko Jezero, and SNPJ #614 Strugglers.

He was the husband of Hermine (nee Cernelich); father of Ken, Elaine and Karen Corkin; grandfather of Robert, Sherry Tracy, Laura Harms, Michael Corkin and Kristen Corkin; great grandfather of John, Taylor, Karley, Kelly, McKenzie, Danielle, Donald and Leah; brother of Theresa Clements and the following deceased: Frank, Edward and Josephine Perusek. He is the son of Frank and Josephine (nee Vidmar), both deceased.

Mr. Dolsak was employed as a presser at Richman Bros. for 35 years. He retired in 1975.

Friends called at the Zelev Funeral Home on Wednesday, Dec. 5 where services were held on Thursday at 9:45 a.m., and at St. William Church at 10:30. Burial in All Souls Cemetery.

ANNA M. MIVEC

Anna M. Mivec, 79, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 1 at Grande Points Healthcare in Richmond Heights, Ohio.

Anna was born in Cleveland on March 12, 1922.

She was a member of American Mutual Life Association.

Anna is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, great, and great-great.

Her parents, John and Anna Mivec, siblings Mary Kaucnik, John Mivec, and Frank Grdanc, niece Mary "Mimi" Draganic are deceased.

Friends were received at The Dan Cosic Funeral Home (formerly Grdina), 17010 Lake Shore Blvd., Cleveland on Thursday, Dec. 6th.

Mass of the Resurrection

took place on Friday, Dec. 7 at St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Ave., Cleveland, with Rev. Joseph P. Boznar, pastor, officiating. Burial in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, OH.

Memorial contributions to Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185 St., Cleveland, OH 44119.

In Memory

Thanks to Ann (Jesenko) Lekan of Parma, OH who renewed her subscription plus added a \$10 donation in memory of her husband, John.

Ann writes, "John and his brothers and sisters of the Lekan family delivered the Ameriška Domovina in the Newburgh area - on their lunch hours during the school year. They always had many tales to tell about that 'chore' which was expected of them.

"Am so grateful for your publishing Anton Zakelj's journal as he comes from our parents' village Ziri, so it brings us many memories of our parents and also we have many relatives still living there."

In Memory

Many thanks for another year of interesting, informative and amusing "print."

We are renewing our subscription and enclosing an additional \$10 in memory of our parents.

--Dom and Val Cekada
Euclid, Ohio

Donation

Thanks to Jennie Mramor of Euclid, OH who sent in a \$25.00 donation as a Christmas gift.

In Memory

In addition to my subscription renewal, an additional donation to this unbeatable Slovenian newspaper is being given in memory of Rudy Simcic. On December 12 feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, it was eight years since Rudy, accordionist and keyboardist, left his earthly home to join the other Slovenian musicians in their heavenly home. Rudy also had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, therefore Dec. 12 has special meaning.

Ruth (Jesenko) Abbott
Parma, OH

In Memory

Thanks to Joe Peresutti who added a \$10.00 donation to his subscription in memory of his wife, Marge.

In Memory

Thanks to Monica Galko of Mentor, OH who renewed her subscription plus added a \$10.00 donation in memory of her mother Josephine Melle.

Donation

Thanks to Millie Ringenbach who sent in a nice donation with the words, "I truly enjoy the American Home newspaper. Read a lot of news, otherwise I wouldn't know what is going on. The paper is very informative. Keep up the good work."

Donation

Thanks to the gracious Mary Zimperman of South Euclid, OH who renewed her subscription plus enclosed a \$20.00 donation. She writes, "Thank you for all your efforts in providing us with a very informative and interesting newspaper. I wish you and your hard working staff continued success and a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year."

Donation

Thanks to Dr. and Mrs. David S. Turk who sent a beautiful Christmas card with love and a \$50.00 donation.

Donation

Thanks to St. Vitus Alumni who sent a letter enclosed with a \$25.00 donation. They wrote, "Please accept the enclosed donation in appreciation for your publication of our yearly function, news articles and meeting notices. Thank you and Season's Greetings." It was signed by Daniel H. Reiger, President.

Donation

Thanks to Stana Oven of Monterey, CA who renewed her subscription plus added a \$20.00 donation.

Cheesecake Cookies

1 cup flour, sifted
1/3 cup brown sugar
6 tablespoons butter
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese
1/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons milk
1 egg, beaten
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Combine flour and brown sugar; -- cut in butter until mixture is crumbly. Save 1 cup of this mixture for top. Place remainder in baking pan (ungreased), and press in. Bake for about 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

Cream sugar and cream cheese, -- add remainder of ingredients and beat well until smooth. Spread over the baked portion. Sprinkle reserved 1 cup of mixture over all. Bake for about 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Cut into squares when cool. X

MORE POTS AND PANS



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Christmas Message

There was a voice today
That only I could hear.
It must have been an angel
Who whispered in my ear.
Rejoice and celebrate
The birth of Christ today.
No time for fret or worry,
Bow down your head and pray.
Ask for faith like the shepherd
Who came from afar,
As he traveled through the desert
Only guided by a star.
Then set your cares aside,
Don't let them in the way,
As you celebrate the birth of Christ
On this Christmas Day.

--Kathleen Lyons

Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.

--Henry Van Dyke

New National Atlas of Slovenia

The English-language version of the 2001 National Atlas of Slovenia is a great reference book for students of all ages and a captivating portrait of Slovenia to share with friends or give as a gift. The well-documented and handsomely presented atlas has 106 maps, 76 color photographs and 24 tables and graphs in its nearly two hundred pages. It is imported by Mark Ryavec, the Consul General Emeritus of Slovenia in Los Angeles. To order, please send a check payable to Delphi Associates to "Slovenian Atlas," 453 Rialto Avenue, Venice, CA 90291. Cloth-bound edition - \$75.00; special leather-bound collectors edition - \$100.00. The cloth-bound version is also available in Slovene. Please allow several weeks for delivery. For information call (310) 392 4843 or email delphiassociates@mediaone.net.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WITH A VISION TO THE FUTURE

St. Vitus Lodge #25

K.S.K.J.



Top Row, left to right, Al Orehek, Treasurer, Joseph Baskovic, President, John Hocevar, Recording Secretary, Joe Hocevar, Vice President; and John Turek, Financial Secretary.

Front Row, left to right, Ralph Prawdzik, Athletic Director, Marty Turek, Auditor, James Debevec, Sgt.-at-Arms, Fr. Joseph P. Boznar, Spiritual Director, and Charles Winter, Auditor. Absent is Auditor Brian Fabo.

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O God,
 As light comes
 from a candle,
 May the blessings of
 Jesus Christ come to us,
 warming our hearts and
 brightening our way.
 May Christ bring life
 into the darkness of this
 world and to us as we
 wait for His coming.
 Christmas Blessing to you!

St. Christine Church
 Rev. Francis Sterk, Pastor
 and Staff
 840 East 222nd Street
 Euclid, Ohio 44123
 216-261-1410

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Healing Mass 2:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6 Confessions 3:00 - 4:00	7 First Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Exposition 7:00 p.m. Mass	8 Holy Day Immaculate Conception Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. Holy Hour
9 Parish Advent Mission 7 - 9 p.m.	10 Parish Advent Mission 7 - 9 p.m.	11 Parish Advent Mission 7 - 9 p.m.	12 Parish Advent Mission 7 - 9 p.m.	13	14	15 Confessions 3:00 - 3:45
16 Penance Service 2:00 p.m.	17 Confessions 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	18 Confessions 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	19 Confessions 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	20 Confessions 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	21 Confessions 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.	22 Confessions 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.
23	24 8:30 a.m. Mass Christmas Eve Masses 4:00 & 5:30 12:00 Midnight	25 Christmas Day Masses 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	26	27	28	29
30	31 8:30 a.m. Mass Mass: 4:00 p.m.	January 1st Holy Day of Obligation Masses: 9:00 & 11:00				

ST. CHRISTINE'S CHURCH

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
 Vesele Božične Praznike
 To Our
 KSKJ Members and Friends

From the
 KSKJ Home Office Staff
 and the
 Board of Directors

Anthony T. Mravle
 CEO

Eugene Kogovsek
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Vesel Božic od Svetega Vida



Jaslice pri
Svetem Vidu.
Nativity scene
at St. Vitus. 2000

DRAGI FARANI! – DEAR PARISHIONERS,

CEZ NEKAJ DNI BO BOŽIČ IN SPOMIN JEZUSOVEGA ROJSTVA V BETLEHEMU. JEZUS KRISTUS, UČLOVEČNI SIN BOŽJI, JE OČETOV ODGOVOR, DA BO POSLAL NA SVET ODREŠENIKA, KI BO SPRAVIL GREŠNO ČLOVEŠTVO S BOGOM. NJEMU SE ZAHVALIMO ZA DAR ODREŠENJA

NAJ BOŽIČ PODELI OBILO NEBEŠKEGA BLAGOSLOVA, MIRU IN RADOSTI NAŠI ŽUPNIJI, DRUŽINAM, PRIJATELJEM IN ŠE PRAV POSEBEJ BOLNIKOM IN OSAMLJENIM. NAJ BOŽIČNI MIR VLADA NAD NAŠIM MESTOM IN SOSESKO. NAJ BOŽJA ROKA VODI VSE NAŠE ŽIVLJENJE IN DOBRE NAPORE V NOVEM LETU 2002. VESEL BOŽIČ!

IN A FEW DAYS WE SHALL BE REMEMBERING THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD. JESUS THE CHRIST, THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES TO THE CHOSEN PEOPLE, THE ONE WHO WILL TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD.

MAY THE JOY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH COME IN GREAT ABUNDANCE UPON OUR PARISH AND NEIGHBORHOOD, UPON OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. MAY HE CONTINUE TO BLESS AND WATCH OVER OUR CITY AND OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. MAY HIS LOVING HAND GUIDE OUR LIVES AND OUR LABORS THROUGHOUT THE COMING NEW YEAR. A MOST JOYFUL CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE, AND MANY BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR 2002.

YOUR PRIESTS AND PARISH STAFF AT ST. VITUS PARISH
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ST. VITUS CHURCH 6019 LAUSCHE AVENUE, CLEVELAND OHIO 44103, 216-361-1444

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Please follow the regular weekly schedule of masses to Monday December 24, 2001. Sledite spored v oznanilu do ponedeljka 24. december 2001.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22, 2001

7:00-8:00 AM Sacrament of Reconciliation – Spovedovanje
3:00-5:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation – Spovedovanje

SUNDAY DECEMBER 23, 2001

8:30-9:00 AM Sacrament of Reconciliation – Spovedovanje
10:00-11:00 AM Sacrament of Reconciliation – Spovedovanje

CHRISTMAS EVE – SVETI VEČER ♦ DECEMBER 24, 2001

11:30 PM No Christmas Vigil Mass – Ni večerne sv. maše
12:00 PM Christmas Choral singing – Božično zborovsko petje
Midnight Mass – Polnočnica

CHRISTMAS DAY – SVETI DAN ♦ DECEMBER 25, 2001

9:00 AM Christmas Day Mass (English)
10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass (Slovenian)
11:30 AM Christmas Day Sung Litanies

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30, 2001

3:00 PM Annual Christmas Concert at St. Vitus Church

NEW YEAR'S DAY – NOVO LETO ♦ JANUARY 1, 2002

Follow the regular weekly schedule to Monday December 31, 2001. No vigil Mass for New year's Day
Sledite spored do ponedeljka 31. december 2001.
V ponedeljek ne bo večerne sv. maše za Novo Leto.

10:00 AM All Parish Mass – Vsežupnjska sv. maša



CHRISTMAS • BOŽIČ • 2001

Church of St. Mary of the Assumption • Župnija Sv. Marije Vnebovzete • Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Mary's,

"And He shall be called Peace."

With the many tragedies of the past year, and the threat of increasing violence and hatred in our world, the message of Christmas touches our hearts quite differently this year. We realize more than ever how important faith, family and friends truly are for our happiness. It's not the number of presents that we receive, but the bonds of our relationships with each other that are of the greatest value. We celebrate with deep faith, the special relationship that God has with each one of us. So much did He love the world, that He gave us His only-begotten Son, Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. It is Jesus who is our peace. It is Jesus who is our hope. It is Jesus who is our life. We invite you to deepen your relationship with the Lord by joining us as we celebrate His holy birth. We invite you to prepare for his coming into your own hearts, by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May Christmas bring you peace and joy. May Christ, through the prayers of his Mother Mary, give you and your loved ones happiness, health, hope and holiness during this Christmas season and in the coming New Year 2002.

With the blessings of Christ our Peace,
Fr. John Kumse, Pastor
Fr. Francis Zagorc

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ZAKRAMENT SV. SPOVEDI

Monday, December 17, 2001
ponedeljek, 17. decembra

Collinwood Cluster
Penance Service at
St Jerome, Lakeshore Blvd.
7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 21, 2001
petek, 21. decembra

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 22, 2001
sobota, 22. decembra

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 23, 2001
nedelja 23. decembra

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

MASSES – SV. MAŠE

4th Sunday of Advent – December 23rd

8:00 a.m. English Mass - angleška maša
10:00 a.m. Slovenian Mass - slovenska maša
12:00 noon English Mass - angleška maša

CHRISTMAS EVE – SVETI VEČER – December 24th

5:00 p.m. Children's Mass - Otroška božična maša
11:30 p.m. Christmas Prelude music - božične pesmi
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass - Polnočnica

CHRISTMAS DAY – SVETI DAN – December 25th

8:00 a.m. English Mass - angleška maša
10:00 a.m. Slovenian Mass - slovenska maša
11:00 a.m. Sung Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Pete litanije Matere Božje z blagoslovom
12:00 noon English Mass - angleška maša

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – PRAZNIK SV. DRUŽINE

Sunday, December 30, 2001

Ordinary Sunday Mass Schedule - Običajen nedeljski urnik
5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil, 8:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon

NEW YEAR'S DAY 2002 – NOVEGA LETA DAN 2002

Monday, December 31, 2001

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass - angleška maša

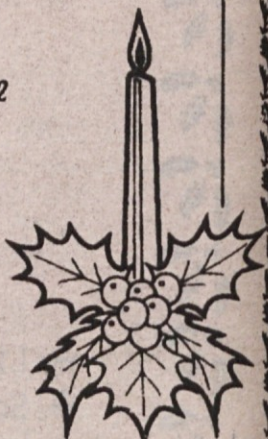
Tuesday, January 1, 2002

8:00 a.m. English Mass - angleška maša
10:00 a.m. Slovenian Mass - slovenska maša
12:00 noon English Mass - angleška maša

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – BOŽIČNI KONCERT

Friday, December 28, 2001

6:30 p.m. St. Vitus Christmas Choir





– Vesti iz Slovenije –

Vatikanski sporazum v ponedeljek končno parafriran – Vlada ga je odobrila pretekli četrtek – Potrditi ga mora še parlament

V ponedeljek sta direktor vladnega urada za zakonodajo Matjaž Nahtigal in apostolski nuncij Edmond Farhat parafrirala sporazum med Republiko Slovenijo in Svetim sedežem o pravnih vprašanjih. Nahtigal je dejal, da bo sporazum še ta mesec v imenu Slovenije podpisal zunanji minister Dimitrij Rupel, hkrati ga bodo poslali tudi v državni zbor, ustavno sodišče pa ga bo obravnavalo, ko bo vlada pripravila pobudo za ustavno presojo.

"Menim, da je lahko psihološki učinek podpisa sporazuma pozitiven, hkrati pa si želim, da se v Sloveniji spremeni ozračje v kontekstu večje medsebojne strpnosti in medsebojnega razumevanja. In ravno prvi sporazum lahko prispeva k temu," je povedal ljubljanski nadškof in metropolit dr. Franc Rode. Nadškof je na novinarjevo vprašanje še dejal, da lahko vodi ta prvi sporazum k še drugim na različnih področjih. Dodal je, da je prepričan o potrditvi sporazuma v državnem zboru. (Op. ur. AD: Celoten tekst sporazuma bo objavljen prihodnji teden, če bo dovolj prostora.)

Predsednik vlade Janez Drnovšek je na novinarski konferenci v ponedeljek rekel, da sporazum ne vnaša nič novega v slovenski pravni red in da je simboličnega pomena: "Dokument nikakor ne pomeni novih obveznosti za državo ali davkoplačevalce."

Najglasnejši nasprotniki sporazuma so v vrstah Združene liste, a se oglašajo tudi drugi. Vtis iz vseh razpoložljivih

poročil pa je, da bo do parlamentarne potrditve po vsej verjetnosti prišlo, da pa ni misliti o kakšnih nadaljnjih sporazumih med Slovenijo in Sv. sedežem, vsaj v doglednem času ne.

Ko je pretekli četrtek postala znana vladna odločitev, je bilo po poročevalcu *Dela* v Rimu Toneta Hočvarja neuradno zvedeti, da so v Vatikanu s sporazumom zelo zadovoljni. Poročilo nadaljuje: "Slovenski veleposlanik pri Sv. sedežu Karl Bonutti se je že v četrtek zvečer pogovarjal z mons. Josephom Marinom, vatikanskim diplomatom ameriškega rodu, ki v državnem tajništvu bedi nad odnosi s Slovenijo, pa tudi s tajništvom državnega tajnika (kard.) Angela Sodana."

Marjan Oleš bo novi apostolski nuncij v Sloveniji – Dosedanji Edmond Farhat odhaja predvidoma že to nedeljo

V torek je papež Janez Pavel II. imenoval 67-letnega Marjana Oleša za novega papeškega nuncija v Sloveniji. Oleš je bil doslej apostolski nuncij v Kazahstanu, Kirgizstanu, Uzbekistanu in Tadžikistanu. Novi nuncij je bil rojen 8. decembra 1934 v Miastkowu v škofiji Lomza na Poljskem. V vatikanski diplomatski službi je že od leta 1966. Iz tiskovnega urada Slovenske škofovske konference so sporočili, da bo dosedanja nuncij Edmond Farhat odšel verjetno že to nedeljo, Oleš pa prišel v ponedeljek, 17. decembra.

Papež je hkrati imenoval mons. Farhata za novega nuncija v Turčiji in Turkmenistanu. Papež je bil Farhata julija 1995 imenoval za prvega stalnega nuncija v Sloveniji. Do takrat je bil Farhat nuncij v Alžiriji in Tuniziji.

Iz Clevelanda in okolice

Pristavski upokojenci—

Božičnica za člane Kluba upokojencev Slovenske pristave bo v ponedeljek, 17. decembra, pop. ob 1.30 v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Avenue. Vabljeni so vsi člani. Več v dopisu na str. 14.

Prodaja peciva—

Oltarno društvo pri Mariji Vnebovzeti ima to soboto, 15. decembra, prodajo peciva, kot običajno v šolski dvorani v dopoldanskem času.

Božičnica—

Društvo SPB pripravlja že vrsto let božičnico. Letos bo v nedeljo, 23. decembra, v šolski dvorani pri Sv. Vidu, s pričetkom ob 3h popoldne. Vsi lepo vabljeni.

"Sveta noč"—

Svetovidski pevski zbor ima zopet na voljo svojo zgoščenko oz. kaseto "Sveta noč". To je odlično božično darilo. Zgoščenka oz. "CD" stane \$15, kaset pa \$10. Podatke o vsebini in morebitni dobavi najdete v oglasu v angleškem delu.

Za mlado članstvo—

Preteklo nedeljo je bilo izredno živahno v obeh dvoranah SND na St. Clairju, kajti je imela AMLA svoje vsakoletno božičnico za mlado članstvo. Na vabilo se je odzvalo kakih 1500 otrok s starši in drugimi sorodniki vred.

Novi grobovi

Antoinette Gerbec

Umrla je 91 let stara Antoinette Gerbec, rojena Arko, vdova po Johnu, mati Nancy Slapnik, Antoinette Heinen in že pok. Richarda, 9-krat stara mati, 13-krat prastara mati, sestra Jennie Primc, Mary Turek, Sophie Turek, Louisa, Josepha, Franka, Frances in Victorja (vsi že pok.), članica AMLA, KSKJ, Oltarnega društva pri Sv. Vidu in Kluba upokojencev na St. Clairju. Pogreb bo v soboto, 15. dec., v oskrbi Zak zavoda, 6016 St. Clair Ave., s sv. mašo dop. ob 11.30 v cerkvi sv. Vida in pokopom na Kalvarije pokopališču. Ure kropljenja bodo jutri, v petek, od 3. do 8. zvečer.

Skupna božičnica—

Kulturna društva Korotan, Kres, Lilija, Fantje na vasi in slovenski šoli pri Sv. Vidu in Mariji Vnebovzeti vabijo svoje člane in prijatelje na skupno vsakoletno božičnico to nedeljo, 16. decembra, ob 5. uri popoldne, v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave. Gospodinje so lepo naprošene za pecivo. Pridite in s prijatelji obudite svoje spomine na pretekle praznike in jim osebno voščite vesele praznike, kar je mnogo več vredno kot voščilna kartica po pošti, piše v obvestilu omenjenih društev.

Bralcem—

Prihodnji teden bo AD redno izšla, in bo zadnja v tem letu, kajti 27. decembra je ne bo. Tako bo prva številka v novem letu 2002 izšla v četrtek, 3. januarja. Z novim letom bo tudi obveljala povišana letna naročnina (gl. str. 1) in vam svetujemo, da jo do konca leta obnovite, tudi če imate še precej časa.

Božični darovi—

Društvo št. 4 AMLA je darovalo božični dar \$150 v podporo našemu listu. Oltarno društvo pri Sv. Vidu je darovalo \$100. Tabor ZDSPB je poklonilo dar v znesku \$50. Slovenska šola pri Sv. Vidu je darovala \$100. Zdravnik dr. Valentin F. Meršol, Chagrin Falls, O., je daroval \$175. Slovensko ameriški radio klub iz Chicaga nam je poslal \$50. Sen. George V. Voinovich je tudi daroval \$50. Za te in vse druge darove se najlepše zahvalimo.

NOVI GROBOVI

Anton Umek

Dne 1. decembra je umrl 66 let stari Anton Umek iz Montvillia, O., rojen v Knežaku, Slovenija, oče Ruth Stimburys, Nancy Hamblin in Anthonyja, 4-krat stari oče, brat Anice Kuret in Fani Slavec (obe v Slov.) in že pok. Ivana. Zaposlen je bil kot strojnik pri Melinz Industries v Clevelandu, član St. Clairskega lovskega kluba. Pogreb je bil 4. decembra v oskrbi Cosicevega zavoda na Chardon Rd. s sv. mašo v cerkvi Marije Vnebovzete in pokopom na Vernih duš pokopališču.



Pretekli teden je bil v Bruslju polletni sestanek zunanjih ministrov držav članic NATA in partneric. Med slednjimi je tudi Slovenija in se je sestanka udeležil zunanji minister Dimitrij Rupel. Na sestanku je Slovenija slišala mnoge spodbudne besede glede možnega povabila za članstvo v NATO. Povabilo naj bi prišlo novembra 2002 v Pragi, vendar ni nič uradno obljubljenega. Na fotografiji je Rupel skupaj z ameriškim državnim sekretarjem Colinom Powellom. Mož v sredini ni identificiran.

AMERIŠKA DOMOVINA

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No. 49

December 13, 2001

PAVLE BORŠTNIK

Perry, Ohio

“Nemoralna Amerika”

“Naša ustava ne prepisuje zakonov drugih držav. Največkrat služi kot zgled drugim in ne posnema nikogar. Ta ustava je naklonjena vsem, ne le nekaterim, zato imenujemo ta sistem – demokracija. Naši zakoni priznavajo enakopravnost vsem, in upoštevajo vse njihove specifične razlike ... svoboda, ki jo uživamo pod našo vlado, se nanaša na vse naše življenje; ne izživljamo se v ljubosumnem medsebojnem zalezovanju, ne jezimo se nad sosedom, če ukrepa po svoji volji, pa tudi ne, če se vdaja ljubosumnosti.

Naša mesta so odprta vsem in tujcem ni prepovedano, da se med nami učijo ali da nas opazujejo, čeprav se pri tem marsikdo okoristi z našo svobodoljubnostjo. Živimo tako, kot nam ugaja, pripravljeni pa smo tudi na vse nevarnosti.

Poleg politike imajo naši voditelji tudi zasebne posle, navadni državljani pa so kljub zaposlenosti še vedno zanesljivi presojevalci javnih zadev. Po darežljivosti smo edinstveni, prijatelje si pridobivamo s tem, da jim pomagamo, ne da jih izkoriščamo; pomoč jim izkazujemo ne iz mrzle preračunljivosti, temveč iz trdne vere v na-

šo svobodo.”

Te besede so mi prišle na misel, ko sem v *Ameriški Domovini* prebral ponatis članka, ki je izšel v *Svobodni Sloveniji* v Buenos Airesu, kjer nekdo razmišlja o “moralni” in “nemoralni” ameriške politike, v luči najnovjših dogodkov.

Op. ur. AD: Omenjeni članek je bil v krajšani obliki objavljen tudi v ljubljanskem verskem tedniku “Družina”.

Teh besed, ki v polni meri veljajo za današnjo Ameriko, za Združene države Amerike, pa ni izgovoril predsednik Bush po terorističnem napadu 11. septembra, izgovoril jih je grški voditelj Perikle leta 430 pr. Kr., na pogrebu prvih žrtev Peloponeške vojne.

Takrat, kot danes, je stala resnična demokracija na okopih, takrat, kot danes, je jasno, da bo obstala in da bo premagala tudi ta najnovejši val bolesterne zavisti in sovraštva, ki jo obliva. Pri tem Amerika ne bo šla z ognjem in mečem nad nikogar, ki je ne bo izzval in ne bo ogrozil njene varnosti in njenega načina življenja; Amerika tudi ne bo preganjala lastnih ljudi, ki bodo morda zapadli isti mislosti o “nemoralni” njene politike, in Amerika prav go-

(dalje na str. 17)

Pristavski upokojeanci poročajo...

CLEVELAND, O. – Že dolgo se nismo nič oglašili, a smo kar lahko ponosni na naš klub, in tudi glavni odbor Slovenske pristave nas večkrat pohvali, kako smo pridni, saj člani našega kluba veliko pomagajo na Pristavi pri čiščenju spomladi, v jeseni in tudi med letom. Tudi za Orlov vrh in Spominsko kapelico Marije Pomagaj skrbimo celo leto.

Zdaj šteje naš klub že 190 članov. Enkrat na mesec se dobimo na sestanku, poleti na Pristavi, pozimi pa v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave.

Organizirali smo tudi izlet na Baragove dneve v Lansing, Mich., dvodnevni izlet na Niagarske slapove, spomladi pa enodnevni izlet v Amish deželo.

Naš letni piknik je lepo uspel, še lepše pa naše kolone. Na kolinah naredimo nekaj denarja, da si za našo božičnico privoščimo dobro kosilo za vse naše člane, in to bo pripravila naša članica ga. Julka Zalar. Zato vemo, da bo izvrstno.

Tudi naši bolniki bodo dobili kosilo na dom in še lepo božično rozo.

Na božičnici imamo prav lep program, čisto lepo in po domače. Povabimo tudi našega župnika, čč.gg. Kumšeta in Božnarja; letos bo med nami tudi č.g. Pavle Novak iz Slovenije. Podal nam bo božično misel. Zapeli bomo naše prelepe slovenske božične pesmi in pokadili po našem starem običaju.

Za Božič pa tudi obdarujemo naše slovenske župnije, slovenske šole, radijske družine, dom za ostarele. V Lemont in našim misijonarjem pošljemo nekaj denarja za sv. maše za naše pokojne člane.

Letos smo določili tudi \$500 za Slomškovo ustanovo v Sloveniji. Slomškova ustanova je bila ustanovljena v dneh drugega obiska papeža Janeza Pavla II., ko je razglasil A.M. Slomška za blaženega. Ustanova podpira revne dijake na vseh štirih katoliških gimnazijah v Sloveniji. Če katera ustanova, je Slomškova potrebna, da jo podpiramo.

Odbor Kluba upokojeancev Slovenske pristave

želi vsem članom in prijateljem našega kluba, vsem rojakom širom Amerike in Kanade blagoslovljene božične praznike in srečno novo leto.

Naše člane pa še enkrat lepo povabimo, da se udeležijo naše božičnice ta ponedeljek, 17. decembra, ob 1.30 pop., v Slovenskem domu na Holmes Ave. Na svidenje!
Odbor kluba

Ena od dam...

CLEVELAND, O. – Velika slovesnost je bila v ljubljanski stolnici 13. oktobra. Kardinal Carlo Furno je med bogoslužjem umestil prve slovenske člane reda Vitezov Božjega Groba: devetnajst viteзов in štiri dame, med katerimi je tudi Ljubljanka dr. Sonja Masle, nekdanji primarij internega oddelka bolnice v Slovenj Gradcu.

Sposobna zdravnica je po svoje požrtvovalnosti, skromnosti in potrpežljivosti znana širom Slovenije in bivše Jugoslavije.

Ko se je leta 1984 upokojila, je odpotovala na Madagaskar, kjer je kot zdravnica v slovenskem misijonu s krščansko ljubeznijo nudila pomoč bolnim in revnim Malgašom. Pogumno, z dvakratno malarijo in dvakratno srčno kapjo, je vztrajala pogumno 9 let med njimi. Resna bolezen jo je napotila v Slovenijo, kjer je prestala operacijo in ostala.

Angel ljubezni, apostol globoke vere, sedaj tudi ne miruje. Mlajša leta je posvečala glasbi in je pravi virtuoz na klavirju. Sedaj v pokoju orgla v farni cerkvi in bližnji, mali podružnici.

Tu v ZDA ima mnogo prijateljev, nekdanjih kolegov iz univerze, pa iz gimnazijskih let ter nekaj sorodnikov, kateri se je spominjajo in ji čestitajo.

Vlasta Masle-Scancar
Dr. Sonja Scancar



Prijatelj's Pharmacy
St. Clair & E. 68 St. 361-4212
IZDAJAMO TUDI ZDRAVILA
ZA RAČUN POMOČI DRŽAVE
OHIO - AID FOR THE
AGED PRESCRIPTIONS

Izpod zvona sv. Marije Vnebovzete

CLEVELAND, O. – Zopet je minil mesec od zadnjega poročila izpod zvona sv. Marije Vnebovzete. Med tem je teklo naše farno življenje po vijugasti poti. Imeli smo uspešen bazar, ki je prinesel lepo vsoto v blagajno, da bo povečano parkališče za avtomobile. V župnijskem pastoralnem svetu, so se štirje člani poslovili, a štirje so na novo potrjeni.

Glavna vhodna vrata v naši cerkvi so tudi zamenjana. Vrata so dodelna, kot so bila poprej, a je vsak del še razpolovljen. Ko gledaš iz cerkve proti vratom, opaziš na desni strani Marijo Pomagaj, ki je obkrožena z napisom: Marija Pomagaj, Kraljica Slovencev, na levi strani je med malimi oblaki simbol upanja – Marija je naše upanje. Spodnji levi del ima sliko brezjanske cerkve, kar je tudi napisano: Our Lady of Brezje, na desni strani je simbol Marije Pomagaj med malimi oblaki. Ko sonce posije na vrata, je to nepozabna slika!

Preteklo soboto je bilo Miklavževanje naše sobotne slovenske šole. Uprizorili so skrajšano opereto Miklavž prihaja, katero so otroci prav lepo podali. Lepo so peli kot angelci in tudi Kosmatin in Škratulin sta priskakljala na oder. Seveda je bilo pod vodstvom Rudija Kneza, ki je pred šestdesetimi leti prvič naučil mladino to opereto. Hvala Vam, Rudi, učiteljstvo in otroci, za tako lep večer.

To soboto bo zopet možno kupiti krofe in drugo pecivo v šolski dvorani, kar bodo članice Oltarnega društva pripravile, saj so prazniki pred vrati.

Za konec tega tedna pride med nas lazarist g. Pavel Novak, ki bo pomagal tudi pri spovedovanju. Poslužimo se prilike in očistimo naše duše, da bodo pripravljene na sprejetje Jezusa!

Članice Oltarnega društva ste vabljeni, da se udeležite na prvo nedeljo novega leta, 6. januarja, skupne sv. maše ob deseti uri, pop. ob

(dalje na str. 15)

Z LETNE KONFERENCE AAASS IN DRUŽBE ZA SLOVENSKE ŠTUDIJE

Vseslovanski velesejem ameriških dimenzij

Enkrat na leto, ponavadi jeseni, se zberejo ljudje, ki sodijo pod okrilje AAASS, imenovano tudi trojni a dvojni s - tj. American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Povečini so člani tega ameriškega združenja za razvoj slavističnih študij, mnogi pa zgolj gostje. Tako prvih kot drugih je zmeraj več in rezultat je velikanski, tudi veličastni sejem intelektualnih dognanj (in sem pa tja spodrslijajev) s področja humanističnih in družboslovnih ved. Da sodijo v slovanske študije, pomeni (predvsem po sill političnih in tudi geografskih razmer) vso Srednjo in Vzhodno Evropo, a tudi Madžare, Romune, Albance, Litvance, Latvijce in Estonce ter zmeraj bolj tudi oddaljena ljudstva iz držav nekdanje Sovjetske zveze; skupaj z izseljenci, ki so odšli od tod in poselili mnoga ameriška mesta.

O izjemnih dimenzijah te letne konference, tridesete, ki je bila letos v Washingtonu, pravzaprav v Arlingtonu, ne morem pričati velikost dvo-rane, ker to pač ni generalna skupščina OZN. Sobe so zmernih dimenzij, zasedba pogosto komorna. Vendar je število sekcij tolikšno, da povzroča vrtoglavico: v rdeči knjižici s programom je mogoče najti 460 do 480 dogodkov (nekaj nejasnosti je zaradi odpovedi posameznih sekcij). Mogoče bodo razlogi za zbežnost bolj razumljivi, če predstavitev obrnem: vse tri dni in pol je hkrati potekalo 40 sekcij, trajajočih po dve uri, od jutra do večera. Ko se je človek odločil za eno, se je prikrajšal za 39 drugih.

Izpod zvona

(nadaljevanje s str. 14)

pol dveh pa ure molitve. Po blagoslovu gremo v šolsko dvorano k letnemu sestanku, ki bo združen z občnim zborom in božičnico. Drage sestre, pridite ta dan, da skupno pregledamo naše delo in se na koncu še malo poveselimo ob toplem čaju.

V imenu vseh članic želim vsem bralcem Ameriške Domovine prav lepo praznovanje Jezusovega rojstva, v Novem letu 2002 pa miru, zdravja in blagoslova pri vsem delu!

Lavriševa

Melanholija nad zgubljenimi priložnostmi je potemtakem nujna sestavina takšne konference. A v kombinaciji s priznavanjem čudenjem: nad številom zastopanih univerz, nad množico učnih ljudi, nad zmožnostjo iskanja sogovornikov v daljnih deželah in organizacijskim trudom, ki je bil vložen v vse to. Nad dialogom, ki se razvija znotraj posameznih disciplin in prek njihovih ograj, saj se jezikoslovje prepleta z etnografijo, zgodovina z literaturo in politiko. Nad nenavadnimi potmi, ki jih ubirajo posamezne vede, ko zapuščajo klasične teme in si odgovarjajo na vprašanja, ki jih je pred pol stoletja komaj kdo znal.

Goščava sodobnih intelektualnih interesov

Seveda pa je nekaj priznavalnega čudenja še vedno deležno tudi to, kaj vse je možno odpirati deset, enajst let po polomu komunizma in v kakšnih zasedbah. Z eksplozivno drznostjo se med Američani in Vzhodnoevropejci danes načelnja vse mogoče – od naravovarstvene zavesti do homoseksualnosti, od Putinove zaznamovanosti s KGB in njegovih imperialnih apetitov do ameriške subverzivne dejavnosti v povojni Vzhodni Evropi. (Da, *Overturing Tito 1945-1950* je bil

tudi pod žarometom).

V rdeči knjižici s programom je ohranjen osupljiv kašipot skozi goščavo sodobnih intelektualnih interesov: kako so gledali na spolnost v ruskih revolucionarnih dekretih in čeških filmih, kaj mislijo Srbi o prihodnosti Kosova (radi bi preselili samostane in cerkve, ker so muslimani nevarni), kako so ohranja in še bolj razsuva solidarnost v postkomunizmu, zakaj se Ukrajincem zdi tako pomembno obnoviti in pozlatiti čebulaste kupole svojih cerkev, kako je videti in se razvija civilna družba v treh baltskih državah, kakšna je bila vloga politikov in kralja v Albaniji dvajsetega stoletja, kako se piše postsocialističnim prostorom spomina in spomenikom na Hrvaškem in v Rusiji, kakšni so statistični sistemi v tranziciji, kako je z zdravstveno politiko in demografijo, zakaj se je Bolgarija po padcu komunizma izognila etničnim konfliktom ... in tako naprej.

Zdaj seveda povzemam program, lahko pa še dodam, da smo tri Slovenke z zadovoljstvom ugotovile, kako zelo se razvijajo "gender studies" in kako bo to, Američani in Angleži odkrivajo v odnosu do spolnosti pri Rusih in Poljaki, prej ali slej odmevalo tudi med Rusi in Poljaki – in Slovenci. V spremstvu smeja, kajti kaj drugega ostane človeku ob navodilu: "Tovariši pacienti, proletariatu je tuj gon za užitkom, to je buržoazno in dekadentno!"

Slovenci kot še nikoli

Ta bežen pregled je tako ukrojen tudi zato, ker so naša pričakovanja urezana po merilih slavistike oziroma po veri, da gre pri *slavic studies* predvsem zanjo. Resnično stanje je prav nasprotno: z literaturo se ukvarja manjšina. Gotovo ne manj akademsko tehtna, a zanesljivo manj izrazita kot nekoč.

Slovencev in honorarnih Slovencev (kot lahko,

brez zle misli, rečemo tistim tujcem, ki se posvečajo tudi nam) je bilo letos na tem srečanju toliko kot menda še nikdar doslej.

Ena sekcija se je ukvarjala s čisto politično analizo odnosov med desetletno Slovenijo in ZDA: Karl W. Ryavec, Charles J. Bukowski, James L. Oberstar, Ernest Petrič in Mark E. Ryavec so poskusili razumeti prihodnost z razgledom po preteklosti, v kateri, kot je znano, Američani niso bili prav naklonjeni slovenski državi. (*Op. ur. AD: kong. Oberstar se te okrogle mize ni udeležil.*)

Druga se je posvetila Korošcem in njihovi usodi: o konfliktih med Slovenci in Nemci ter Avstrijci, o meji in ideologiji integralnega nacionalizma so govorili Tina Bahovec, (odsotni) Igor Grdina, Valentin Sima, Anton Gosar, Dennison Rusinow in Rudolph M. Susel.

Pet se nas je razgledalo po fenomenu neoseb v komunističnih časih: Peter Vodopivec in podpisana nasploh, Mirjam Hladnik Milharčič Hladnik z osvetlitvijo Angele Vode, Andrej Inkret pa od daleč, z referatom o Kocbeku, ki ga je prebral Milan Kravanja (*washingtonski rojak, op. ur. AD*), kar vse je vodila in povezala Leopoldina Plut Pregelj.

Timothy Pogačar je načeloval sekciji, posvečeni zadnjemu slovenskemu desetletju in tranziciji: ob podatkih (odsotnega) Franeta Adama o formiranju elit in prihodnosti demokracije sta teža nosila in zdržala Tatjana Bajuk Senčar in Jurij Fikfak; prva je analizirala vlogo ekonomskega diskurza v "zgodbi o uspehu", drugi stare in nove simbole, pod ka-

terimi nastopa nova država.

Carole Rogel, Jera Vodušek Starič, Matjaž Klemenčič, Rudolph M. Susel in (odsotni) Franca Dolinar pa so poskusili povezati dve zgodovini: tisto, ki so jo izkusili emigranti, ko so z letom 1945 zapustili domovino, in drugo, "domačo", ki so ji bili emigrantski arhivi nedostopni, iz različnih razlogov pa ostajajo težko dosegljivi tudi zdaj, ko posebnih, vsaj zunanjih ideoloških zadržkov ni več.

Nič čudnega, da je senca starih zamer, nezaupljivosti in previdnosti še vedno navzoča. Prepad med domovino in tujino je bil dolg in resen. V eni od razprav je Peter Vodopivec povedal, da se še leta 1985 ni smel udeležiti zasedanja AAASS, ker je grozila nevarnost, da sreča "sovražnega emigranta Meštrovica".

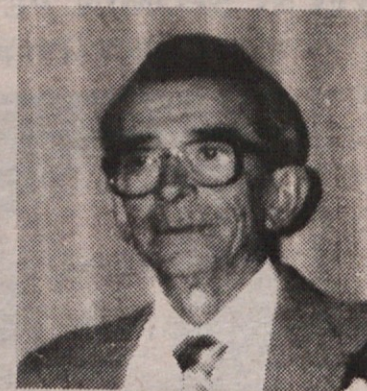
In Dimitrij Rupel, ki je na teh konferencah prav tako večkrat nastopil, je zbrano slovensko srenjo spomnil na čas, ko so mu dodelili spremljevalca, da je pazil nanj; to pot so nanj kot zunanjega ministra tudi pazili, a iz drugačnih pobud.

Seveda takih priznanj ni bilo slišati samo iz slovenskih ust. Ameriški zgodovinar Ištvan Deak je dejal, da so se morali vsi, tudi lastniki ameriškega potnega lista, "ma-

(dalje na str. 16)

V BLAG SPOMIN

ob drugi obletnici smrti našega dobrega moža, ata in starega ata



Jože Smolič

ki je umrl 19. dec. 1999.

S cveticami Ti grob krasimo, in molimo za dušni mir, da enkrat srečno se združimo tam, kjer je večne sreče vir.

Žalujoci:

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in Emil z ženo Margo
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Škof Alojz Uran je obiskal Slovence v San Franciscu

Lepo sodelovanje

Ljubljana – Slovenski klub, ki ga zastopata Joe Govednik in Ivo Ravnik, je povabil škofa Urana, ki je pri Slovenski škofovski konferenci odgovoren za Slovence po svetu, na obisk Slovencev v San Franciscu. Škofa se je pridružil mons. Franc Vrhunc, ker je v Kaliforniji veliko Slovencev iz Bele krajine in je nekateri učil, ko je bil kaplan v Semiču. Obisk, ki je trajal od 2. do 9. novembra, je takole opisal:

Prvi dan smo obiskali pokopališče Svetega Križa in na grobovih slovenskih dušnih pastirjev v San Franciscu zanje molili. V istem grobu so pokopani: Franc Turk (1879-1939), prvi dušni pastir pri cerkvi Gospo-

dovega rojstva; Vital Vodusek (1906-1973), priljubljeni dušni pastir, ki je veliko naredil za Slovence in Hrvate v San Franciscu, bil velik prijatelj nadškofa Vovka in dobrotnik ljubljanske škofije; Jurij Trunk (1870-1973), umrl star 103 leta; zadnja leta je živel pri Vitalu Vodušku.

Na tem pokopališču sta pokopana še mons. Jožef Turk (1895-1951) in kanonik stolnega kapitlja v Ljubljani dr. Janez Kraljič (1889-1970).

Obiskali smo tudi grob Petra Pečavarja, uspešnega gradbenika, ki je nenadoma umrl koncem lanskega leta.

Isti dan, na verne duše, smo imeli zvečer mašo v cerkvi Gospodovega rojstva. To je župnijska



Škof Uran in mons. Vrhunc z Joejem Govednikom

cerkev personalne župnije za Slovence, Hrvate in Poljake. Župnik je Poljak Czeslaw Rybacky. Ob nedeljah ima najprej mašo za Slovence in Hrvate, in to v angleščini, nato pa za Poljake v poljskem jeziku.

Škof Uran je župniku priporočil, naj se potruzi in kdaj mašuje tudi slovensko in hrvaško. Naši rojaki v San Franciscu namreč zelo pogrešajo slovensko bogoslužje.

Pevski zbor, ki ga sestavljajo v glavnem Slovinci in ga vodi Aleš Šimenc, poje med mašo večinoma slovenske pesmi.

Po maši je bilo v dvorani pod cerkvijo prvo srečanje s slovenskimi in hrvaškimi rojaki. Razveseljivo je dejstvo, da se med seboj odlično razumejo in sodelujejo.

Z rojaki smo se srečali še v soboto zvečer. Po maši je bilo v župnijski dvorani "martinovanje". Martinovanja in nedeljske maše naslednji dan se je udeležilo lepo število Slovencev in Hrvatov.

V Ameriki ima vsaka cerkev tudi dvorano, kjer se ob nedeljah po maši srečajo in pogovorijo ob prigrizku in pijači. V nedeljo je na koncu maše, pri kateri je zbor odlično prepeval, škof pri cerkvenih vratih vsakemu ponudil roko v pozdrav, vsak je ob tej priložnosti dobil za spomin podobico z motivi slovenske pokrajine in primerno spodbudno mislijo.

Še tretjič smo se srečali v sredo, 7. novembra, zvečer v Slovenskem domu. Tam je bila najprej maša, nato večerja in pogovor s škofom. Škof je pripovedoval o gospodarskih in političnih razmerah v domovini, o odnosu med Cerkvijo in državo, o verskem življenju v domovini in odgovarjal na vprašanja.

V sredo, 7. novembra, sva v spremstvu Iva Ravnika obiskala nadškofa

in metropolita v San Franciscu, Lavada. Škof Uran se mu je zahvalil, da so Slovinci in Hrvati dobili nazaj cerkev Gospodovega rojstva, ki je bila nekaj let zaprta in jo je skupaj z župniščem prejšnji nadškof dal na voljo brezdolcem, ki so stavbo in župnišče razdeljali. Za obnovo cerkve in župnišča so v glavnem poskrbeli Slovinci, ki tudi največ darujejo za vzdrževanje cerkve.

Škof se je zahvalil tudi za to, da imajo Slovinci in Hrvati svojega župnika. Omenil je željo slovenskih rojakov, da bi občasno prišel k njim slovenski duhovnik, maševal in pridigal v slovenskem jeziku in bil na voljo za spoved. To naj bi bilo zlasti za božič in veliko noč. Ta duhovnik naj bi v času bivanja v San Franciscu stanoval v župnišču. Nadškof je to dovolil.

Dva dneva sva bila s škofom Uranom tudi v Sonomi. V tem kraju, okrog sto kilometrov severno od San Franciscu, imajo nekateri Slovinci počitniške hišice.

Zadnji dan sva v spremstvu prof. dr. Franceta Rodeta obiskala Stanford, univerzitetno mesto v tako imenovani Silicijevi dolini, kjer izdelujejo čipe za računalnika. Oba z ženo sta zaposlena v tem mestu, ki ima vse fakultete in veliko študentov z vsega sveta. Dr. Rode naju je v četrtek, 8. novembra, pospremil na letališče. V Ljubljano sva se vrnila naslednji dan. Slovenija

se je odela s prvim snegom.

Franc Vrhunc
DRUŽINA, 2. dec. 2001

Zborovanje

(nadaljevanje s str. 15)

lo prostituirati" in da se sam gotovo ne bi toliko let ukvarjal s Kossuthom, ampak s kakšno bolj aktualno in vznemirljivo temo; a kaj, ko so morali tudi emigranti upoštevati "realiteto", ta pa je razkazovala svojo moč tako v pritisku na sorodnike kot v izgonu iz države.

Med konferenco je zasedalo tudi vodstvo (*in članstvo, op. ur. AD*) Society for Slovene Studies (Društvo za slovenske študije), ki v ZDA deluje že skoraj trideset let in ga zadnje leto vodi muzikolog Metod Milač (velik poznavalec Gallusa).

Ob naštevanju ljudi, ki so ključnega pomena v tem procesu, se je treba posebej ustaviti pri Carole Rogel z univerza v Ohio. Profesorica zgodovine (njen oče je bil še Rogelj) je bila soustanoviteljica Društva za slovenske študije in njeno dolgoletno organizacijsko delo, skupaj z raziskovalnim in pedagoškim, ji bo konec leta prineslo Častni znak svobode Republike Slovenije.

"ZNANOST"

Štirinajstdnevna znanstvena
priloga časnika Delo
5. decembra 2001



Grobovi slovenskih duhovnikov v San Franciscu

Čestitke g. Urošu Redek ob prejemu
univerzitetne diplome!

Bill

V VEČNI SPOMIN PETRA PEČAVAR

12. DECEMBER 2001



Minilo je že leto dni, odkar si nas zapustil;
Naš dom je pust in prazen, od kar Te ni.
Čeprav zdaj v hladnem grobu spiš,
V naših srcih pa za vedno živiš.
Bodi srečen tam, kjer si,
Saj križ nam sveti govori,
Da vidimo zopet se nad zvezdami,
Da vidimo v raju večnem se ... nad zvezdami.

Tvoji žalujoči:

Žena Stanka ter sinova Peter in Johnny

V BLAG SPOMIN



ANTON ZUPANČIČ
1901 — 1978



ROZALIJA ZUPANČIČ
1905 — 1992

Ne en dih,
ne en list ne zatrepeče,
mirno v srebru se leskeče,
ziblje stvarstvo sladko speče,
pokoj tih...

Žalujoči:

ing. Anton Z., Slava Pust, Olga Petek, Roži Selan
sin in hčerke z družinami

Cleveland, Ohio, 13. decembra 2001.

"Nemoralna Amerika"

(nadaljevanje s str. 14)

tovo teh ljudi ne bo metala iz letal v morje.

Na dnu, na resničnem dnu te "svete vojne", ki jo je muslimanski terorist Osama bin Laden napovedal Ameriki, je namreč zavist, čista in gola zavist. In ista zavist je v ljudeh, ki ob pobe- silelem napadu na Ame- riko, 11. septembra, mo- dro kimajo: "Morda pa je Amerika res arogant- na, pogledajte, kaj je nare- dila z Indijanci in črnici, pogledajte - kar preberite še enkrat tisti članek..."

Amerika se svojih po- manjkljivosti dodobra za- veda in jih priznava, pa tudi skuša popraviti. V tem je tista "nemoralna" njene politike. Vojna v Afganistanu še ni konča- na, terorist bin Ladin se še skriva in veliko vpra- šanje je, če ga bo sploh kdaj dosegla "roka pravi- ce".

Toda v Ameriki se že razvija debata, pred kak- šno sodišče naj bo pos- tavljen, če bo ujet, in v Ameriki so ljudje, ki jih že skrbi, da ne bodo njegove ustavne "pravice" kakorkoli kršene. Vsaka druga država bi ga pos- tavlila pred zid in pokon- čala. V tem je "nemora- la" ameriške politike. De- bata se šele začneja, bo pa izbruhnila na dan z vso silo, če bo bin La- den res ujet.

V drugi svetovni vojni se je Amerika, po ome- njenem člankarju (članek oz. komentar je podpisal Tone Šušteršič iz Buenos Airesa, op. ur. AD) "po- vezala" s sovjetskim ko- munizmom. To ne drži. Amerika se je v vojni znašla na isti strani s Sovjetsko zvezo, ker je bil Hitler v vojni z obe- ma. Da je bilo zavezništvo "nenaravno", o tem smo bili vendar vsi v

Evropi prepričani, in na tej postavki smo prav Slovenci, ki smo se upi- rali komunizmu, gradili vso svojo politiko: da bo prišlo do razdora med Ameriko in Sovjetsko zvezo in da bo potem "naša" stran prevladala.

Do razdora je tudi res prišlo, čeprav ne dokler je trajala vojna. Zakaj pa se je "nemoralna Amerika" spustila s Sov- jeti v 40-letno hladno vojno, v kateri je domala propadla, obenem z osta- lim svetom - če se je samo nekaj let prej "zve- zala" sovjetskim komuni- zmom?

Amerika je odvrгла pr- vi atomski bombi na Ja- ponsko in uničila mesti Hirošimo in Nagasaki. Res. Odločitev je napra- vil takratni predsednik Harry S. Truman, ki je prevzel krmilo države v svoje roke tik pred kon- cem vojne. Pred njim se je odpirala možnost izre- dnih izgub ob namerava- nem napadu na samo Japonsko, ali pa enkrat- ni udarec, ki bi skoraj gotovo zahteval manj žr- tev in bi končal veliko morijo.

Truman je svojo odlo- čitev razložil, Amerika, ki je ostala za njim, pa ne vidi dosti razlogov, zakaj bi dejanje obžalo- vala; tudi je vsako "mo- ralno" krivdo več kot plačala s tem, da je Ja- ponsko spet postavila na noge, ji zavarovala njene tradicije in iz nje naredi- la solidno, demokratično silo, ki danes prednjači na azijskem kontinentu. Tudi v tem je "nemora- la" ameriške politike.

Prava podoba, meni člankar, "špekulativnega angloameriškega oportu- nizma" se kaže v izročitvi Kozakov, Kavkazijcev, Belorusov in Vlasovcev iz osvobodene Evrope.

Mislím, da je več ali manj znano, da v večini primerov vračanja teh nesrečnikov, ameriška vojska direktno ni bila prizadeta. Kot piše Niko- laj Tolstoj v knjigi "The Minister and the Massacres", je general Dwight D. Eisenhower celo po- nudil britanskemu povelj- stvu v Avstriji, da prev- zame v ameriško zased- beno cono VSE protiko- munistične oddelke, na katere je angleška vojska naletela v Avstriji.

Kako se s tem kaže

"špekulativni angloameri- ški oportunizem", mi je nejasno, kot mi je neja- sno, kaj pravzaprav naj bi ta definicija pomenila, ali pa morda avtor kar tako v tri dni opleta s "kunstnimi izrazi".

Amerika je ves čas vojne dobavljala material "že izčrpani Rdeči sovjet- ski armadi", meni član- kar. Tako se pač obna- šajo zavezniki, tudi "ne- naravni" zavezniki. Če bi tega ne storile ZDA, bi jim danes avtor tistega članka najbrž očital še eno "nemoralno" dejanje: pustili ste, da je nemška vojska poklala sovjetsko.

Dalje: Tito "se ne bi tako dolgo in trdno dr- žal", če ga ne bi podpi- rala Amerika. Mi Sloven- ci imamo to žalostno la- stnost, da se nam zdi, da smo v resnici - zlato središče sveta, da je na- ša bela Ljubljana tista točka, okrog katere se vrti ves svet.

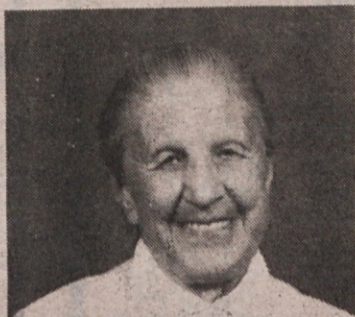
Če pa si ogledamo ce- loten razvoj skozi per- spektivo zgodovine, vidi- mo, da se je prav s podpora Titu sprožil tisti prvi kamenček plaz, ki je odnesel evropski ko- munizem, ali mu vsaj zlomil hrbtenico. Seveda je nas, ki smo na lastni koži občutili Titovo ma- ščevalnost, močno bolela takratna ameriška politi- ka, toda tako pač je. v

(dalje na str. 18)



V BLAG SPOMIN

1. OBLETNICE SMRTI naše mame, stare mame in prastare mame



ANA MEDVED

ki je umrla 6. dec. 2000.

Eno leto je že minilo, odkar Tebe več med nami ni. Le pri Bogu mirno zdaj počivaj in sveti raj uživaj.

Žaljujoci: sin Tone z družino, v Sloveniji, sinova Nace in Lojze ter hčerka Ani z družinami.

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in srečno novo leto vsem
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Božji blagoslov v Novem letu želi vsem
prijateljem in znancem

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Veliko božjega blagoslova ob
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uspehov v novem letu 2002 želi
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in srečno Novo leto

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Ivan in Paula Hauptman,

ter sinova Anton in Peter,
hčerki Metka Luzar

in Maria Nunnally z družinami

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in srečno Novo leto želiva vsem
prijateljem in znancem

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Nemoralna...

(nadaljevanje s str. 16)

resničnem svetu: odločitve padajo na vrhovih, ne v dolinah.

Amerika je indirektno "podpirala diktature bivših kolonijanih južnoameriških držav". Res? Najbrž, ampak kdo more zameriti Ameriki, če je tako kot ves ostali svet tavalala v megli in se ni mogla znajti ob vseh tistih generalih in generalisimih, ki so se pojavljali na jugu?

Glavni, osnovni ameriški "cilj" je - iskanje sreče. To geslo je Jefferson zapisal črno na belem v Deklaraciji neodvisnosti: med osnovne, neodtujljive človekove pravice sodi poleg življenja in svobode tudi pravica do iskanja sreče. Kaj pa je iskanje sreče? Ciniki, zavistneži ga imenujejo "kopičenje bogastva".

Z bombardiranjem Koreje in Vietnama je bilo prizadeto predvsem civilno prebivalstvo. Tudi z bombardiranjem Nemčije je bilo prizadeto predvsem civilno prebivalstvo. Mesto Dresden je bilo dobesedno umorjeno v eni sami noči. Menda več kot 50 tisoč ljudi. Toda vojna ni začela Amerika, v vojno je bila prisiljena. Vojna pa mora imeti samo en cilj - poraz nasprotnika z vsemi mogočimi sredstvi. Vsaka druga vojna je cincanje, o čemer se je Amerika dodobra poučila na Koreji in v Vietnamu (kjer se je prav tako otepala očitkov "nemoralne"). Prav isto velja za Irak in Miloševićovo Jugoslavijo.

Amerika je napadla v toku svoje zgodovine: Mehiko, Dominikansko Republiko, Grenado, Panamo in, slednjič, Kosovo odnosno Srbijo. VSE te države imajo zdaj dobre odnose z Ameriko in vse so deležne ameriške pomoči v eni ali drugi obliki.

V Afganistanu se Amerika bori proti Osami bin Ladinu, ki ga je sama izučila za teroristične akcije. Kakšna ironija, meni člankar.

Kdo pa to taji? Nikjer, v nobenem ameriškem dokumentu ni zapisano: Združene države ne bodo nikdar in nikoli zagrešile nobene napake! Avtor je samo pozabil o-

(dalje na str. 19)

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in srečno novo leto!*

Mara C. in Gary R. Hull

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in srečno novo leto!*

Jože in Mili Lekan

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Stani, Matt Grdadolnik,

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Stanko in Ivanka

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*Blagoslovljene in milosti polne božične
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novo leto ŽELI rojakom doma in posvetu!*

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vam ga napravil.

*Voščim vsem vesele božične praznike
in srečno Novo leto!*

PAVLE M. LAVRISHA

A note of thanks for all your calls during
this past year.

Have a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

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Hinko in Maria Zupancic

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Nemoralna...

(nadaljevanje s str. 18)

meniti, da so padali na Afganistanu poleg ameriških bomb tudi paketi s hrano. Na tisoče paketov, razvila se je prava trgovina z njimi. Kakšna ironija! Kakšna nemoralna!

Amerika se noče podvreči določilom Zveze Narodov (menda avtor misli na Organizacijo združenih narodov oz. OZN). Kadar se nekje na svetu primeri ena ali druga nesreča katastrofalnega obsega, se prizadeji avtomatično obrnejo na Ameriko: pomagaj!

Pri tem je pravzaprav treba omeniti še en ameriški "greh", ki ga je avtor članka spregledal: v letih takoj po prvi svetovni vojni in boljševiški revoluciji, je Amerika s pošiljkami hrane v resnici rešila Rusijo pred katastrofalno lakoto. Kako nemoralno!

Kot vsi drugi narodi sveta pa se je tudi Amerika, žal po težkih razočaranjih in resnih porazih, zavedla, da je sama sebi najbližja, da so njena prva zapoved njeni interesi. Amerika ni dobrodelnostna ustanova, katere glavni namen je delati red po svetu, oblačiti nagne, nasičevati lačne in zdraviti bolne. Amerika je država, katere "business" je, kot je nekdo dejal - "business". Tu smo spet pri "iskanju sreče"! Če pa je temu tako, če mora Amerika ob vsaki težavi ali katastrofi kjerkoli, seči v žep, potem ji gredo tudi določene pravice, vsaj tiste pravice, ki sovpadajo z njenimi interesi.

Samo na Bližnji vzhod pošilja Amerika letno 4 milijarde dolarjev. Dve v Izrael in dve v Egipt. Zakaj? Zato, ker jo je prevzela neka "nemoralna" obsedenost, da bi omogočila vzpostaviti mir na tistem nesrečnem področju, kjer se stikajo tri svetovna verstva, pa je izpostavljeno enemu samemu sovraštvu, prepiru, ubijanju in obupni negotovosti. Kakšna nemoralna! Štiri milijarde iz žepov ameriških državljanov takorekoč za "praznični"! Če in ko bo nastopil mir na Bližnjem vzhodu, se namreč v Ameriki bistveno ne bo nič spremenilo!

(dalje na str. 20)



*Srečno in uspehov polno novo leto
obiskovalcem naših prireditev, našim
sotrudnikom in vsem slovincem
želi*

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Olga Kalar in Toni z družino

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Jože, Ani in mama Križman

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*Vam vsem iz srca želimo
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Ivan in Maria Novak

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John, Carolann Leskovec

Jože, Lillian Starck

Misijonska srečanja in pomenki

Misijonar Vladimir Kos SJ se je oglasil za advent

s tokijsko vinjeto, adventno obarvana kot jo sam imenuje:

Tokijsko sonce ogreva češnje. Zmeraj več se jih upa cveteti. Belo-roznato-rdeče čakajo pomlad. V moji sobici v predmestju pa je zrak adventno osvetljen. Pred mano sedi japonski mladenič. Črnih oči in črnih las in snažno, a skromno oblečen. Kdo je Kristus, hoče vedeti. Ali je res ne le človek, ampak nekaj več, božje Bitje?

Najprej ga vprašam, ali mu lahko postrežem s kavo ali čajem. "Čaj, prosim," mi reče veselih oči. Na robu predmestja traja pripravlanje čaja dalj časa kot v mestu. Medtem mu razložim, da je Kristusovo vstajenje temelj že dvatisočletni katoliški Cerkev. To Cerkev je sam Kristus ustvaril. Iz roda v rod, od stotletja do stoletja, od dežele do dežele oznanja ta Cerkev to edinstveno zgodovinsko dejstvo: čeprav razmesarjen in ubit na križu, se vrne znova živ iz groba v nedeljo po petkovem križanju. Dokazal je, da je več kot le človek, ki so ga s takšno lahkoto umorili. Aretaciji in usmrtitvi se ni upiral, ker je hotel dati svoje življenje za vse ljudi. (Voda je zavrela. Pravega čaja nimam, a fant je zadovoljen s čajno vrečico. Vroča voda iztisne iz nje vonj in okus, le barva je pomladansko blede.)

Mladenič zadovoljno srebra čaj. Od skodelice povzdigne oči. "Kako je Kristus lahko božje bitje, če se tako kot vsak človek rodi?" Kristusovo vstajenje od mrtvih je dokaz, da je vse, kar je bil o sebi razodel, resnica. Tako tudi to, da je po angelu prosil mlado judovsko dekle – japonsko jo kliče mo Mariá –, da si v njenem deviškem telesu ustvari svoje človeško telo. Rada je privolila. ("Še eno skodelico?" ga vprašam. "Prosim," iztegne prazno skodelico.) In reče: "Od protestantskega prijatelja sem čul, da je bil Kristusov oče judovski tesar Jožef." Spet odkimam: "Ne bo držalo. Jožef je bil Kristusov krušni oče; Judje bi ubili dekle, ki rodi, ne da bi mogla imenovati očeta. Kristus je za svojega življenja večkrat razodel, da je Bog Njegov Oče. Torej je Kristus Božji Sin – Bog, ki zmeraj ostane nespremenljivi Bog. Od kar je postal Človek, ostane tudi Človek. Kristus je Bog-Človek."

(Nekaj japonskih slaščic mu ponudim, rad jih sprejme.) S papirnatim robčkom si obriše usta. In reče: "Zdaj mi postaja jasno, kaj pomeni po vsej Japonski znana ameriška beseda Kurísumus. Božji Sin se rodi kot Človek." "Točno." Razveseli se, da je zadel pravi odgovor. Poslovi se, ker ga čaka delo.

Čez mesec dni spet pride na razgovor. Okrog vrta nosi verižico s križem. Ob pogledu nanj se spomnim molitev in žrtev, ki jih v ozadju misijonskega delovanja prispeva MZA. Da lahko uspešno oznanjamo Kristusovo vstajenje, ki s svojo neovrgljivo svetlobo ožarja tudi – jaslice.

S prisrčnimi pozdravi ostajam vdani

Vladimir Kos, SJ.

Nadaljevanje: "Poslanica svetega očeta za svetovni misijonski dan 2001".

6. – Dragi bratje in sestre! Misijon zahteva molitev in določeno delo. Če naj evangelij prodre v vse pore življenja, je treba opraviti celo vrsto nalog.

Letos obhajamo 75. obletnico, od kar je papež Pij XII. uvedel Svetovni misijonski dan. S tem je odgovoril na prošnjo Papeškega dela za širjenje vere, da "se ustanovi dan molitev in obvešanja v prid misijonom, ki naj se obhaja isti dan v vseh škofijah, župnijah in ustanovah katoliškega sveta. Hkrati naj se zbirajo darovi za misijone." Odtlej je misijonski dan posebna priložnost za to, da se vse božje ljudstvo spomni na trajno veljavnost misijonskega naročila, saj "misijon zadeva vse kristjane, vse škofije in župnije, cerkvene ustanove in združenja" (OP 2).

To je obenem lepa priložnost, da se poudari, da "misijoni ne prosijo le pomoči, ampak zahtevajo medsebojno delitev prek oznanjevanja in ljubezni do ubogih. Kar smo prejeli od Boga, ni naše; to velja tako za življenje kot za gnotne dobrine" (OP 81). Ta dan je pomemben za življenje Cerkev "tudi zato, ker nas

učti, kako moramo dajati: znotraj evharističnega slavlja darujemo Bogu, obenem pa darujemo za vse misijone po svetu". Ta obletnica naj bo torej priložnost za razmišljanje o tem, da moramo pomnožiti skupno prizadevanje, da bi še okrepili misijonskega duha. Obenem naj bo to tudi priložnost za zbiranje nujne gnotne pomoči, ki jo misijonarji potrebujejo.

7. – Pri homiliji ob sklepu velikega jubileja, 6. januarja 2001, sem dejal: "Treba se je vrniti k izhodišču, ki je Kristus, in sicer z binokšnim poletom in z obnovljenim navdušenjem. Vrniti se moramo k njemu predvsem v vsakdanjem prizadevanju za svetost in se postaviti v držo molitve in poslušanja njegove besede. Vrniti se moramo k njemu, da bi mogli pričevati za Ljubezen."

Zato:

Vrni se h Kristusu, ti ki si našel usmiljenje.

Vrni se h Kristusu, ti ki si odpustil in prejel odpuščanje.

Vrni se h Kristusu, ti ki poznaš bolečine in trpljenje.

Vrni se h Kristusu, ti ki si v skušnjavi mlačnosti.

Leto milosti pomeni neomejen čas.

Vrni se h Kristusu, Kristusu. Cerkev novega tisočletja. Prepevaj in hodi: Marija, Mati Cerkve, zvezda evangelizacije, stopi tesno ob nas na tej poti, kot si bila ob strani učencem na binokšni dan. Polni zaupanja se obračamo nate, da bi nam Gospod na tvojo priprošnjo naklonil dar vztrajnosti v misijonski nalogi, ki zavezuje vso cerkveno skupnost. S temi željami vas vse blagoslovljam.

V Vatikanu na binokšti, 3. junija 2001,

Janez Pavel II.

(Prevedal Bogdan Dolenc, Misijonska Obzorja 2001)

Od srca do srca iz misijonskega sveta

Oglasila se je s. Zvonka Mikec iz Angole: "Marijin mesec smo lepo praznovali, kljub vojni. Hvala za vaše molitve in prizadevanja. Tudi v Angoli smo polni upanja radi Kristusa, kateri nam daje moč. Vsa situacija je zelo kritična, saj vojna neprestano povzroča lakoto, revščino, begunce. In to gre naprej že 40 let. Ljudje, ki zdaj živijo v glavnem niso okusili, kaj pomeni živeti v miru, z vsem potrebnim za normalno življenje. Laična misijonarka nam je v veliko pomoč. Se že kar počuti domačo. Pomaga pri katezezi, poučuje petje in angleščino. Vsi si najbolj prizadevamo za šolo, ki nudi otrokom tudi en obroko hrane. Lahko si predstavljate, kako se veselimo vsakega daru. Z US \$200 zagotovimo šolo in kosilo za enega šolarja za celo leto. Veliko otrok je brez staršev in je tukajšnji misijon za njih edina rešitev. Mnogo bi se dalo še pisati, pa še drugič kaj.

Vsem prijateljem misijonov ter dobrotnikom teh naših prepotrebnih otrok hvaležen pozdrav in spomin v molitvi. Sr. Zvonka Mikec."

Dragi prijatelji misijonov, dragi sodelavci in dragi vsi bralci Ameriške Domovine, naj vas poslanica sv. očeta za svetovni misijonski dan in teh nekaj novic iz misijonskega sveta povabi k molitvi in žrtvi za prodor Kristusove ljubezni in njegovega kraljestva v tukajšnja in vsa človeška srca v teh adventnih dneh, ko se pripravljamo na novo rojstvo Jezusa.

Z adventskimi pozdravi za MZA,

Sonja Ferjan

79 Lunness Rd., Toronto
ON M8W 4M7, Canada

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Nemoralna...

(nadaljevanje s str. 19)

Prav tu je tudi jedro problema, ki pa ga avtor ne vidi. Po več kot 50ih letih obstoja izraelske države, na Bližnjem vzhodu še ni nobenih znakov miru. Arabsko, ali muslimansko, če hočete, sovraštvo do Amerike pa izvira v dobri meri prav iz ameriške politike na Bližnjem vzhodu, ki je naklonjena Izraelu.

Ta politika vsekakor ni nemoralna, ker podpira ljudstvo, nad katerim visi posebna usoda in ima vso pravico do obstanka. Vsako politiko pa je potrebno od časa do časa ponovno preučiti in premisliti v prizadevanjih, da bi slednjic le pripeljala do končnega cilja – miru na Bližnjem vzhodu.

Pomoč, ki jo Amerika izkazuje svetu, pa ni le političnega značaja. Ljudje po svetu nimajo pojma, kako se v Ameriki izpolnjuje zapoved "ljubi svojega bližnjega", pa naj bodo pri tem zapleteni še tako banalni, ali celo "nemoralni" nagibi. Država je preplavljena z vsemi mogočimi dobrodelnimi organizacijami. Vsaka predstavlja svoj "misijon", eni zbirajo za zamorčke v Afriki, drugi za sirote v Braziliji, tretji za nomade v Sudanu, četrti za lačne Abesince, za Kitajce in – navedemo lahko celo vrsto nacij; za otroke brez staršev, za starce brez otrok, za to bolezen, za ono bolezen itd. itd.

Ciniki bodo seveda rekli, da gre ta denar po večini v žepe brezvestnih sleparjev; nekaj gotovo, ampak to ni važno, važno je, da se Američani na splošno zavedajo, da jim gre dobro in da si ne mašijo ušes pred prošnjami ljudi, ki so manj obdarjeni kot oni. Kako nemoralno!

Članek v *Svobodni Sloveniji* je krivičen; v njem je pravzaprav zapisana samo ena resnica, žalostna, kakor je, namreč, da je bil s "tem", se pravi z napadom na Afganistan, zaneten požar, "ki se utegne razdivjati do neslutnih svetovnih razsežnosti".

Američani, tudi slovenski, upamo, da naše vodstvo tega ne bo dopustilo.